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Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-92-022
Monday
3 February 1992

Daily Report
East Asia

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Joint Japan-DPRK Normalization Talks Continue

Japan Proposes Principles for Ties

OW3101152392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1508 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Beijing, Jan. 31 KYODO—Japan on Friday proposed to North Korea a four-point basis for normalizing bilateral ties—respect for sovereignty, mutual nonaggression, nonintervention and the use of peaceful means to resolve disputes—at the second of their sixth round of normalization talks, Japanese officials said.

The four basic principles are the first of their kind to be presented by either side in the talks between Tokyo and Pyongyang, the officials said.

Earlier in the day, Japan and North Korea agreed to extend the planned two-day talks by one day to Saturday as they had failed to agree on how to deal with past treaties in a joint document to be exchanged when bilateral diplomatic ties are established. [passage omitted]

Nevertheless, Chon In-chol, head of the North Korean delegation, told reporters that Tokyo and Pyongyang were able to deepen mutual understanding through the negotiations and to build a foundation for reaching agreement in the future. [passage omitted]

DPRK Views Second Day of Talks

SK0102125492 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2300 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Text] The sixth DPRK-Japanese intergovernmental full-dress talks continued in Beijing on the morning and afternoon of 31 January to discuss the normalization of diplomatic relations.

At the end of the morning talks, Chon In-chol, head of our side's delegation gave a news briefing and explained the status of the talks.

According to him, following the 30 January discussion, the talks discussed the question of establishing diplomatic relations, the first item on the agenda.

At the talks, our side first blamed the Japanese side for avoiding answering the three questions, raised by us during the 30 January talks, under this pretext or that. Our side stated that this eventually shows that the Japanese side is unwilling to admit and repent of Japan's past criminal deeds and is trying to let it go unnoticed. Our side clarified its stand that without clear answers to them there would be no progress in the talks.

Meanwhile, at the 30 January talks, our side said: First, 200,000 Korean women, including little girls aged 12 to 16, were drafted to battlefields to serve as comfort girls for Japanese soldiers. On which article of the law of Japan at that time was this shuddering act based? Second, it took Japan half a century to admit that the state was responsible for the issue concerning comfort women for soldiers. Then, how many centuries will it take for Japan to admit all of the crimes it has committed? Third, which is true and which is false, the statement by the Japanese prime minister that Japan repents of and apologizes for Japan's past crimes or the argument by the Japanese side that there is nothing wrong in Japan's past colonial rule?

Our side also strongly urged the Japanese side to provide any justification for its argument that the treaties forced on Korea at bayonet point in the past were legitimate in view of international law.

The Japanese side doggedly opposes our suggestion that a provision that the sides shall not seek domination be included in an official document to be adopted in case of establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries. Our side referred to this as an intention to legitimize Japan's past criminal deed in the document, not to make a clear slate of Japan's past but to do such a deed again in the future if necessary. Our side stressed that the Japanese side must clearly realize that such an argument will not go down with our Republic.

Our side made clear our stand once again that diplomatic relations will not be normalized unless Japan admits and apologizes for her past criminal deed in explicit terms and makes sufficient compensation for it.

Driven into a blind alley, the Japanese side failed to provide justification for its argument and, finally, mumbled that no international law gives any particular article about it. When our side asked the Japanese side again if it admitted that the past treaties were illegal, it absurdly uttered it was written so in a book written by a foreign expert on international law.

The Japanese side again proposed to include the content of the San Francisco Peace Pact in a joint document in case it is adopted.

Our side said: We have clarified from the first round of the talks that the pact should not be contained in the joint document because it has nothing to do with our Republic.

Our side asked why the Japanese side is trying to include the content of the pact, which we do not recognize and does not relate to us. Our side also said: By doing so, the Japanese side is seeking to make one recognize that Korea was separated and became independent from Japan. Our people won the country's independence and founded our Republic in 1948 by their own struggle. How can one say that Korea became independent under the San Francisco Peace Pact signed in 1951?

Calling attention to the fact that the Vienna Convention points out that a treaty signed by threat and coercion is null and void, our side stressed that it is a brigandish argument for Japan, which allegedly recognizes the Vienna Convention, to describe as valid the treaties it had forced on Korea at bayonet point.

Referring to the fact that in connection with a document of agreement to be adopted between the two sides, the

Japanese side is talking about coordination with Japan-South Korea relations, our side said that this means that Japan has as an intention to legitimize the existence of two states on the Korean peninsula. Our side strongly demanded that the Japanese side give up its previous logic and conception of considering North-South relations as relations between two states.

The head of our side's delegation gave a news briefing after the afternoon talks. The issue of establishing diplomatic relations, the first item on the agenda, was discussed in the afternoon, too. The Japanese side expressed its views on what the Korean side said in the morning.

Referring to the question of the treaties Japan had forced on Korea, the head of the Japanese side's delegation made the clumsy explanation that he said that the treaties were effective then, not legitimate. When our side asked whether it thinks they are legitimate now, it failed to answer our question, saying that the question cannot be a point of issue in the talks.

In connection with the issue of including a provision—that the sides shall not seek domination—in a document to be adopted in case diplomatic relations are established, the Japanese side said that it wants to include a provision defining general principles applicable between countries in this document and that it considers it unnecessary to include a provision that the sides shall not seek domination.

Our side again stressed that the past history of relations between Korea and Japan, in other words, the historical fact that Japan invaded and ruled Korea must be mentioned in a separate clause of the document.

Referring to the fact that the North and South of Korea admitted that their mutual relations are not relations between two states but special relations that were tentatively formed on their way to reunification, our side asked Japan to correctly perceive the situation which has changed and to stop trying to state in the document—to be adopted between the DPRK and Japan—that two Koreas, two states, exist. In response, the Japanese side contended that because the North and South admitted that their mutual relations are special and recognized their mutual entity, the questions of coordination and jurisdiction should be made clear in the document on any account and that the division of Korea has been brought into bolder relief. In this way, it tried to justify its argument.

Our side said that under circumstances in which the North and South, the parties concerned, say that their mutual relations are not relations between states, the Japanese side must perceive the contend of the North-South agreement as it is, if the Japanese side has normal thinking power. Our side also said that the Japanese side's logic shows that it does not like Korea's reunification and wants it to perpetually remain two states.

The whole process of the talks that day showed that for all its talk about apology, Japan is, in actuality, trying to beautify its past misdeed, rather than admit it, and that although it is talking about making compensation, it is still maintaining that there is nothing to compensate for.

The talks continue.

DPRK Fetes Japanese Delegates

SK0102052792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0506 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] Beijing January 31 [dateline as received] (KCNA)—The DPRK Government delegation participating in the sixth inter-governmental full-dress talks for the normalization of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations hosted a party here this evening for the Japanese Government delegation.

Invited to the party were the members of the Japanese Government delegation headed by Noboru Nakahira, representative of the Japanese Government, and the minister of the Japanese Embassy in Beijing.

The members of the DPRK Government delegation headed by Chon In-chol, vice-minister of foreign affairs, and the minister of the DPRK Embassy here were present.

The party proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

Talks End in Stalemate 1 Feb

OW0102133692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1321 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] Beijing, Feb. 1 KYODO—Negotiations to normalize diplomatic ties between Japan and North Korea ended in a stalemate Saturday over North Korea's demand on compensation for sufferings inflicted during Japan's colonial rule of the Korean peninsula, Japanese officials said.

Also on the third-day of the sixth round of bilateral talks at the North Korean Embassy in Beijing, Japan expressed an apology to North Korea on the so-called "comfort women," who were forced to provide sex to Japanese soldiers during World War II, the officials said.

Japan referred to an apology on the matter made earlier in January by Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa during his visit to South Korea. Japanese negotiators said Miyazawa's remarks were directed toward "all the comfort women from the Korean peninsula," they said.

In mid-January, Miyazawa apologized to South Korea for the former Japanese Imperial Army's role in forcing thousands of mostly Korean women to serve in front-line brothels as "comfort women," and he vowed to investigate the matter.

During the talks, originally slated to end Friday but which were extended by one day, delegates from Tokyo and Pyongyang remained divided over data which would be the legal basis for compensation and for assessing damages, the officials said. Pyongyang urged Tokyo to present data regarding damages Japan inflicted during its 1910-1945 colonial rule of the peninsula, saying Tokyo promised during the previous round of talks to submit the information, they said.

The next round of talks is expected to be held as early as the end of March in Beijing, they added.

Chon In-chol, head of the North Korean delegation, said a 1953 survey by Japan's Public Security Investigation Agency shows that by the end of World War II, Japan had drafted 360,000 Koreans to serve as soldiers or civilians attached to the military. He demanded that the Japanese delegation hand over the data.

Noboru Nakahira, chief of the Japanese delegation, reiterated Tokyo's stance on compensation, proposing that North Korea forfeit its right to seek property damages, and in return, receive a corresponding amount of economic cooperation, the officials said. He also said Tokyo will cope with compensation demands only after Pyongyang objectively proves facts surrounding each of the demands, as well as the specific legal basis for integrating the damages, they said.

As for the legal basis, Japan's "inhumane crime" has already been certified, Pyongyang said, referring to the 1943 Cairo Declaration which stipulated Korea's independence from Japan, and the 1945 Potsdam Declaration in which the U.S., Britain, and China urged unconditional Japanese surrender.

Chon noted the expression in the Cairo Declaration, which said the Korean people were in a "slavish condition," the officials said. Tokyo countered that the declaration does not refer to compensation, and therefore does not constitute a legal basis. Pyongyang, however, did not use the term "reparations" in demanding compensation, the officials said. North Korea used the word until the fourth round of talks, saying Japan had a responsibility to pay reparations because the two countries were at war, they said. It also did not refer to post-war compensation for the 45 years after World War II, the officials said.

Also on Saturday, Japan welcomed North Korea's signing of a nuclear safeguards accord with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and called for Pyongyang to fully carry out international inspections of the nation's nuclear facilities.

DPRK Delegation Head on Normalization Talks

SK0202001592 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] The sixth full-dress talks between the DPRK and Japan on normalizing diplomatic relations ended yesterday [1 February] in Beijing.

Following the conclusion of the morning talks, Chon In-chol, vice foreign minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and head of our country's governmental delegation, gave a news conference to reporters at our country's embassy in the PRC.

According to his announcement at the news conference, both sides discussed the compensation issue, which was the second item on the agenda of the morning talks.

The Japanese side, which spoke first at the talks, adopted the insincere attitude of repeating remarks from previous talks, saying that the compensation issue should be resolved within the framework of property claims and that claimants should first present objective legal proof to substantiate their claims.

The Japanese side, even at the fifth talks, took the position of not compensating victims at all, saying absurdly that our side should present evidence to prove when, where, and how Koreans were killed, and that it would then, after deliberation, compensate for them if need be. Therefore, our side explained that it will not present evidence because the Japanese side, which is the assailant, should first present evidence and that it would have it because it forced the Korean people into conscription, the draft, and into becoming comfort girls. Our side thereby expressed its view that both sides should prepare and present the relevant evidence to develop the talks.

The Japanese side, saying that it did not intend to present evidence, pointed out, however, that it could fully understand the Korean side's remarks that both sides should prepare and present the evidence to be discussed frankly at the sixth talks. Nevertheless, the Japanese side tried to find excuses, saying that it would deliberate the evidence when claimants presented it, and that it could not present evidence because it did not know what the Korean side wanted and that it had never promised to bring any to the current talks. In addition, the Japanese side even said that the Korean side should not call on the Japanese side to present the evidence.

Our side demanded that the Japanese side take a correct attitude and position in participating in the talks, strongly asserting that its remarks showed an attitude of not developing the talks, but of retreating from them, and that it was a wrong behavior that upsets the articles upon which both sides had agreed. This is a provocation [tobal] that insults us.

At the talks, the Japanese side, quoting the relevant articles from the rules of the Cairo Declaration, Potsdam Declaration, and Far East International Military Court, that our side had mentioned in previous talks, also said that when Japan forced the Korean people into conscription, the draft, and into being comfort girls and when it arrested, imprisoned, and killed Korean people as criminals, it was based on positive law at the time. In addition, the Japanese side assumed the attitude that our side's position on pointing out the unjustice of its demands was not proper [tadangchi].

Our side asked whether the Japanese side could recognize the rules of the Cairo Declaration, Potsdam Declaration, and Far East International Military Court. At that, the Japanese side said that it would recognize only the Cairo Declaration and Potsdam Declaration. Regarding the Far East International Military Court rules, the Japanese side, saying that it recognizes the Far East International Military Court verdicts, avoided answering about the rules.

Japan unconditionally signed a document of surrender under the condition of fully complying with the Potsdam Declaration. Our side asked the Japanese side why, then, it ignored the contents of the Potsam Declaration.

In addition, our side, reminding the Japanese side of the articles on crimes against humanity set forth in the Far East International Military Court rules, asked how it could ignore the slaughters and crimes committed by Japan in Korea in the past, using positive law at the time as an excuse.

The Japanese side could no longer make an excuse, because our side's demands were correct.

Under the condition in which the Japanse side would not recognize its past crimes, our side presented a copy of a document released by the Japanese Public Security Investigation Agency alleging that Koreans were forced laborers. In addition, our side asked why it could not present the evidence despite these facts.

By doing so, our side again called on the Japanese side to refrain from avoiding a discussion of the issues even while reversing remarks that it made in the past. Our side urged it to participate in discussing the compensation issue with an honest and sincere attitude.

According to the announcement made by the head of our country's governmental delegation at the news conference, in the afternoon talks, our side first made remarks that expressed our position on the compensation issue.

Our side pointed out: Japan should apologize sincerely for its past acts and compensate the victims appropriately. This is its unavoidable historical responsibility. In addition, Japan should never avoid its responsbility through words.

Our side stressed: The current disclosure of the wartime comfort girls issue, an issue about something that the Japanese Imperial Army brutally committed, shows that Japan cannot hide and deny its past crimes and that it cannot avoid the responsibility, however hard it may try, and that issues which are supposed to be disclosed in the future can be disclosed at any time. In addition, it proves that such inhumane acts of brutally trampling underfoot human dignity absolutely cannot be settled by a so-called claim of right.

Our side said: Because millions of victims and witnesses are still alive, Japan should know that it cannot avoid the responsibility for its past crimes, which were unprecedented in history.

Our side continued: Regarding the development of situations related to the comfort girls issue, which was disclosed this time, it again proves that our calls up to now for compensation for the victims are very just.

Our demands mean that Japan should apologize for something that needs an apology and that it should compensate for something that needs to be compensated, thus undauntedly and clearly liquidating the past wrongdoings. As a result, we should try to prevent any trouble that might occur in the future.

Our side pointed out: The Japanese papers reported on a Japanese Foreign Ministry cadre's remarks that, until now, the North Korean side had never demanded, in the DPRK-Japanese talks, compensation for the wartime comfort girls, but that Japan would apologize for this issue in the sixth round of their current talks.

Our side, saying that, if this were true, this would show Japan's insincere attitude, refuted his remarks by showing specific documents on the wartime comfort girls issue raised by us from the beginning of the first talks.

Our side, stressing that the wartime comfort girls issue is a matter of human conscience and morals, continued: The Japanese side too frequently said at these talks that our side should bear the responsibility of being a member of the international community. Japan should not worry about another's affairs, but should, with an honest conscience, apologize sincerely and compensate appropriately for its past crimes committed against millions of people. As a result, it should assume its responsibility in the international community as a state that has not entertained again ambitions for domination.

Truly, if the Japanese side had been sincere in resolving the issue, it should have come to the talks with evidence showing how Japan forced more than 200,000 women into the war as comfort girls, and how it treated them cruelly and inhumanely.

Stressing that Japan should appropriately compensate for the loss of South Korean people's lives in the past, our side pointed out: Because Japan did not clearly liquidate its past wrongdoings with South Korea in the past, the anti-Japanese movement is continually increasing among the South Korean people. Japan should truly pay attention to the South Korean people's just demands and make enough compensation for victims who were forced into the war as comfort girls and laborers. By doing so, our side said, we will not gloss over Japan's past wrongdoings, like the South Korean authority did in liquidating the past with Japan. Neither will we sow the seed of trouble in the future. Once the liquidation of Japan's past acts has occurred and a pact on the liquidation has been signed, we will not discuss the past. This means that both sides should develop their neighborly and friendly relations in the future, Our side again stressed: All the facts clearly show again how just are the demands our side has consistently maintained in the DPKR-Japan talks on the liquidation of the past.

Regarding the third agenda item, the Japanese side raised the nuclear inspection issue, which has nothing to do with the talks, and assumed an unjust attitude, as it did in the past, saying that the international community is concerned about this.

Our side pointed out the injustice of the Japanese side's remarks, asking whether it has any justification to interfere in the nuclear inspection issue now that the issue has been completely resolved as a result of our country's formal signing of the Nuclear Safeguards Accord with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Our side also pointed out: The Japanese side should seriously learn lessons from its wrong behavior, based on its wrong miscalculation of situations.

Our side stressed: If Japan had accepted our proposal urging it to discuss with the United States the arranging of the DPRK-U.S. talks to resolve the nuclear inspection issue, it may have been better. Now, however, Japan has lost even that opportunity. Therefore, it is correct to see that Japan's position has become more narrow.

Our side pointed out: Both the DPRK and the United States expressed their satisfaction with the outcome of their recent high-level talks. A Joint Declaration on the Denuclerization of the Korean Peninsula was signed and exchanged between our side and the South Korean authority. On 19 February, the declaration will become effective formally.

Our side made a close inquiry as to why Japan made irrelevant remarks, even during these current talks and what displeased it.

Our side pointed out: In fact, Japan does not want the DPRK's nuclear inspection issue resolved. With hidden intentions, it even tries to blemish the atmosphere in which the issue is nearly resolved and to create a negative mood in which the issue can never be resolved.

Our side continued: We clearly say again that we do what we say we are going to do and we do not do what we say we will not do. We never make idle promises. Any external pressure can neither make us do what we should not do nor make us not do what we should do.

As an independent country, the DPRK has a right to decide by itself when to sign the nuclear safeguards accord, when to put it into force, and when to accept nuclear inspection. We do not have an obligation to notify the Japanese side of these matters. The Japanese side cannot justify its asking us to do so, either.

As we said before, it does not matter to us whether we establish diplomatic relations with Japan or not. No matter how important it is to normalize diplomatic relations with Japan, we never would do such a thing as notify Japan of our internal affairs as to when or whether we accept nuclear inspection, which has nothing to do with relations.

Our side emphasized that at a time when the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula is nearly resolved, the nuclear threat now is coming from Japan. Our side pointed out in detail that the world's attention focuses on the fact that Japan is accumulating much more plutonium than is needed.

Our side also emphasized: Japan pays too much attention to the DPRK's nuclear inspection issue and insists on thorough supervision of us, doubting if we will faithfully accept nuclear inspection, even at present when the issue has been resolved already. Putting the various facts together, this clearly shows Japan's intention to make a pretext for preparing itself to be armed with nuclear weapons. Internationally, it is time for Japan to be accused in the nuclear court.

Regarding Japan's remarks at the talks on prospects for a North-South summit, our side clearly expressed our basic position for the North-South summit, saying: This matter is the Korean nation's internal affair, which we ourselves will manage properly. We do not welcome Japan's interference in this matter at all, and want it simply to observe.

Next, the fourth agenda item was discussed at the talks. Regarding Japan's request for us to take measures for early home visits by Japanese spouses in the DPRK, our side pointed out: As this issue cannot be resolved by one side's efforts, both sides should cooperate to resolve it.

In discussing the issue of the legal status of Korean residents in Japan, our side exposed that some Japanese security institutions keep displaying their hostility against the General Association of Koreans Residing in Japan [Chongnyon]. Our side cited specific instances and demanded that the Japanese side take proper steps to keep its word not to suppress Chongnyon.

Our side urged Japan to stop forcing Koreans in Japan, who among all the foreigners there have a historical background of being discriminated against, to carry the foreigners' registration cards with them. Our side also urged Japan to abolish the criminal laws applied to them.

Our side demanded that Japan treat Korean schools in Japan according to the Article No. 1 of Japan's School Education Law and to support them financially and materially.

In addition to this, our side demanded that Japan thoroughly reveal and make public all the kinds of losses that Koreans in Japan incurred from the Japanese Government in the past. Our side also demanded the appropriate compensation for all the Koreans in Japan and their bereaved families suffering from the losses.

At the talks, both sides agreed to hold the seventh full-dress talks in Beijing two months later.

Reviews Ties With Japan, U.S.

OW0202133092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1309 GMT 02 Feb 92

[Text] Beijing, Feb. 2 KYODO—A senior North Korean Government official Sunday urged Japan to promote ongoing bilateral negotiations on establishing diplomatic relations between Tokyo and Pyongyang.

In an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE, Chon In-chol, the North Korean chief negotiator at the normalization talks, said that Japan should give serious consideration to the mutual influence of relations between Japan and North Korea and that between Pyongyang and Washington.

On Saturday, Chon and his Japanese counterpart Noboru Nakahira ended a three-day sixth round of normalization negotiations in Beijing without reaching a major breakthrough. The talks were launched in January last year.

Chon stressed that the main stumbling block in the way of the negotiations is Japan's failure to do serious soul-searching about its past crimes and to compensate for human sufferings it caused.

He stopped short, however, of mentioning a formula to calculate the amount of war reparation that Japan should give to North Korea.

Regarding Seoul's demand for Japanese compensation to South Korean women forced to provide sexual services for Japanese soldiers during World War II, Chon said that Pyongyang supports the South Korean Government since the people of both nations are Koreans.

Chon did not, however, make any mention of the possibility of taking concerted action with South Korea in demanding Japanese compensation for the so-called Korean "comfort women."

Chon described the January 22 high-level talks between North Korea and the United States as an important turning point in the process of improving the bilateral relations.

Arnold Kanter, U.S. undersecretary of state, and Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the Korean Workers Party, met at the U.S. mission to the United Nations in New York to discuss Pyongyang's suspected nuclear development programs.

It was the highest-level meeting ever to be held between the two countries, which fought in the 1950-53 Korean war. The U.S. sided with South Korea, the North's archrival, in the conflict.

Regarding prospects for improving relations between Pyongyang and Washington, Chon said a state-to-state relationship could rapidly advance beyond expectations. He added that he thinks that normalization negotiations with the U.S. could start at an early date.

ASEAN Ministers Sign Tariff Reduction Accord

BK2801131392 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 1148 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] Singapore, Jan 28 (BERNAMA)—ASEAN Economic Ministers today signed the instrument that would accelerate liberalisation of intra-ASEAN trade and create an Asean Free Trade Area (AFTA) by the year 2008.

The Common Effective Preferential Tariff Agreement [CEPT], the main mechanism for achieving AFTA, would adhere to the principles, concepts and ideals of the framework agreement on enhancing ASEAN economic cooperation adopted by the ASEAN heads of government at their fourth summit which ended here today.

Malaysia was represented by minister of international trade and industry, Datuk Sri Rafidah Aziz, Brunei by its minister of industry and primary resources, Encik (Mr.) Abdul Rahman Taib, Indonesia by its minister of trade, Dr. Arifin M. Siregar, the Philippines by its secretary of trade and industry, Encik (Mr.) Peter D. Garrucho Jr, Singapore by its deputy prime minister and minister for trade and industry, Brigadier General (retired) Lee Hsien Loong, and Thailand by its minister of commerce, Encik (Mr.) Amaret Sila-On.

A ministerial-level council would supervise, coordinate and review the implementation of the CEPT scheme which would also assist the ASEAN Economic Ministers (AEM) and work closely with the ASEAN senior economic officials' meeting (SEOM).

The 10-article agreement aims to expand investment and production opportunities, trade and foreign exchange earnings within the region.

The CEPT scheme would cover all manufactured products, including capital goods, processed agricultural products and products outside the definition of agricultural products.

Agricultural products was defined as agricultural raw materials or unprocessed products and products which had undergone simple processing with minimal change in form. A product would be deemed to be originating from ASEAN countries if at least 40 percent of its content originated from any member country.

Identification of products for the scheme would be made on a sectoral basis at the six-digit level of the harmonised system while goods excluded would be identified at the eight or nine-digit level of the harmonised system.

Member countries, temporarily unable to participate in the scheme, were permitted to exclude their products and a review of the agreement, to come into effect on January 1, 1993, would be made in the eighth year to decide on the final exclusion list or any other amendments.

The agreement sets out a schedule of tariff reduction from existing levels to 20 percent within the first five to eight years with member countries encouraged to adopt an annual rate of reduction under a "(X minus 20 percent)/5 or 8" formula where X equalled the existing rates of individual member countries. Subsequent reduction of tariff rates from 20 percent or below would be done within a time frame of seven years with the rate of reduction at a minimum of 5 percent each time.

Products with existing tariff rates of 20 percent or less on January 1, 1993, would automatically enjoy concessions while two or more member countries could enter into arrangements for tariffs to be reduced to 0-5 percent on specific products at an accelerated pace.

Under the CEPT scheme, they would also undertake to eliminate other non-tariff barriers on a gradual basis within a period of five years after the enjoyment of concessions.

Products under the ASEAN Preferential Trading Arrangement (PTA), not transferred to the CEPT scheme, would continue to enjoy the margin of preference existing as at December 31, 1992.

Mahathir To Explain EAEC to Potential Members

BK2801141692 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1330 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] Speaking at the press conference, Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said that ASEAN will meet potential members of the proposed EAEC [East Asia Economic Caucus] to explain the concept to them as a first step towards its implementation.

The prime minister said he was satisfied with the outcome of the summit in respect of the EAEC. He adds that from now on, ASEAN officials will have to work out the different steps to be taken in order to realize the objective of creating the EAEC.

ASEAN ministers will then have to meet the potential members of the caucus to explain to them what the EAEC is all about and if it materialized, how could it be used as a means of ensuring free trade all over the world. He said action towards this would be taken as early as possible.

On whether he expected Japan to come forward more positively on the proposal now that it had been accepted by the ASEAN leaders, Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir said it was his hope that Tokyo would be forthcoming from now on.

Regarding the notion that the EAEC would create a wedge between the United States and Japan—the world's two largest trading nations—the prime minister said the wedge was already there. Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir also rejected accusation that the proposed EAEC would come under the umbrella of the APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation] forum and [word indistinct] by some critics. But he stressed that there was nothing wrong in the EAEC cooperating with APEC.

Malaysia Ready With 4,000 Items for CEPT Plan

BK2801154192 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 1254 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] Singapore, Jan 28 (BERNAMA)—Malaysia would immediately be able to offer some 4,000 items for the Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) scheme beginning January 1, next year. International trade and industry minister, Datuk Sri Rafidah Aziz, said these comprised 3,717 manufactured goods and 295 processed agricultural products.

Import duties levied by Malaysia on the products ranged from zero to five per cent, she told a press conference called by Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed at the end of the two-day fourth ASEAN summit here.

Datuk Sri Rafidah said tariff on another 121 manufactured goods and 586 processed agricultural products would be reduced to 20 per cent from January 1.

Malaysia was not offering cars for inclusion in the CEPT scheme, adopted at the summit here, but it was open to discussions on the matter, she added. The CEPT agreement, providing for the scheme which would be the main mechanism for establishment of an ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) within 15 years, was signed by the ASEAN economic ministers here today.

Speaking to reporters later, Datuk Sri Rafidah said intra-ASEAN trade, totalling U.S.$3.476 billion in 1990, made up 17.7 per cent of the total global trade of ASEAN countries.

Malaysia's share of intra-ASEAN trade in 1990 amounted to about 26 per cent. Her trade with Singapore amounted to U.S.$6.8 billion in 1990, Thailand U.S.$583 million and Indonesia U.S.$253 million.

Datuk Sri Rafidah said Malaysia's exports to ASEAN accounted for 29.1 per cent of its global exports.

Japan

Miyazawa Meets With PRC's Li Peng 31 Jan

OW3101230592 Tokyo KYODO in English 2245 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Text] New York, Jan. 31 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa promised Chinese Premier Li Peng on Friday that Japan would "seriously consider" his invitation for Emperor Akihito to pay a state visit to China this year, Japanese Government officials said.

Li's invitation to the emperor and Miyazawa's positive response came in a brief chat between the two leaders in a lounge at the U.N. Manhattan headquarters, officials said. A formal session of bilateral talks that has been scheduled for later in the day was canceled.

Their exchange of views came just before the start of an unprecedented summit of leaders from the 15 nations now sitting on the U.N. Security Council.

China has repeatedly invited the emperor to China in fall of this year to mark the 20th anniversary of the normalization of Sino- Japanese relations.

Officials said Miyazawa and Li, meeting for the first time since Miyazawa took office last November, discussed the series of events planned to commemorate the anniversary, including a scheduled visit to Japan by Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, possibly in April.

Miyazawa was quoted as saying he was pleased to see recent pictures showing Chinese senior leader Deng Xiaoping to be in good health. Officials said Li confirmed that the 87-year-old Deng is healthy and said he is now in southern China.

Deng's trip to the Shenzhen Special Economic Zone, which began January 19, was his first officially acknowledged public appearance since last year.

Japan originally declined a Chinese invitation for bilateral talks between Miyazawa and Li at the U.N. summit conference, citing time constraints, but later agreed to a brief meeting Friday afternoon.

Li, who visited Europe before coming to New York, is making his first visit to the West after a long period of diplomatic ostracism because of his role in the 1989 crushing of the pro-democracy movement in Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

Some 2,000 people protested Li's visit near the U.N. headquarters, carrying such placards as one that read, "Butcher of Beijing."

U.S.-China Division on Human Rights Discussed

OW0302091692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0907 GMT 03 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 3 KYODO—Japan hopes to help bridge the deep division between China and the United States over Beijing's human rights record, the government spokesman said Monday.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato said at a news conference that U.S. President George Bush and Chinese Premier Li Peng seem to still be far apart on human rights issues following their first summit meeting last week since Beijing's 1989 crackdown on prodemocracy activists.

He said that Japan could serve as a go-between to improve communication between the two major countries.

Kato suggested that Japan take a more flexible view on human rights than Western industrialized countries, which he said "will not permit any compromises."

"Various Asian countries maintain the position that there are various standards (of human rights) for various levels of development," Kato told reporters.

Unlike in Li's recent meetings with leaders of Western industrialized countries, human rights was not discussed at a brief get-together with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa in New York last week during a U.N. Security Council summit meeting.

Li was met last week with demonstrations, demands that he release dissidents, and criticisms of alleged human rights violations during visits to Europe and the U.N.

He rejected the demands by stating that countries should not interfere in another nation's domestic affairs.

Chinese Firm Files Suit Against Textile Company

OW0302143592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1401 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Osaka, Feb. 3 KYODO—A Chinese firm has filed a suit against a Japanese company asking for full payment of damages resulting from the alleged export of machines in poor condition, an attorney representing the Chinese firm said Monday.

Zhejiang Provincial Light Industrial Products Import and Export Corp., based in Hangzhou, filed the suit against a medium-sized textile firm based in Kurashiki, Okayama Prefecture, western Japan, the lawyer, Shizuko Sasaki, said.

It is a rare case of lawsuit filed against a Japanese company by a Chinese firm. The latest suit has been filed with the Okayama District Court.

A Chinese arbitration committee has already handed down a decision ordering the textile firm to compensate Zhejiang for damages.

Under Japanese law, a final decision handed down by a foreign court is observed as long as it does not disturb public order in Japan.

The Chinese company filed the suit with the Okayama District Court in January, asking the court's permission to enforce the earlier decision made by a Chinese Arbitration Commission, she said.

She said payment of damages was overdue.

Opening arguments in the legal proceedings are scheduled to begin February 21.

According to the lawsuit, the medium-sized textile firm exported to Zhejiang in 1985 for some 260 million yen eight machines that produce bags for holding such things as rice and sand.

The Japanese firm, which asked not to be named, promised to pay the Chinese firm some 30 million yen in damages due to the poor performance of the machines.

Zhejiang then asked the China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission to mediate the dispute, alleging that the Japanese firm had paid only part of the damages claimed.

In January last year, the Chinese arbitration body ordered the Japanese firm to pay the remaining 24 million yen in damages.

The textile firm's failure to comply with the request prompted Zhejiang to bring the suit before the Okayama District Court last month.

A spokesman at the Kurashiki-based company said its wholly owned subsidiary, a textile machine manufacturing concern, exported the machines jointly produced by the subsidiary and a small-sized machinery manufacturing firm in Gamagori, Aichi Prefecture, central Japan.

The medium-sized textile firm sent engineers to Zhejiang to help set up and operate the machines, he said.

The Kurashiki-based firm and the small machinery maker are locked in a civil suit to determine how the remaining payments to Zhejiang will be divided.

Payment of the some 6 million yen paid so far was shared by both the textile firm and the smaller machinery maker.

A senior official at the Kurashiki-based firm blamed the poor performance of the machines on the poor quality of the raw material—resin—used in the machines and the frequent power failures at the Chinese firm's plant.

Sasaki said that up to now disputes between Japanese and Chinese concerns were settled by the Chinese arbitration body.

Refusal by the Japanese firm to adhere to Chinese arbitration ruling has caused concern among the Chinese regarding the Japanese and Japanese firms, she said.

Failure by the court to recognize the textile firm's obligation to make full payment would undoubtedly have an impact on business relations between Japan and China, she said.

Miyazawa Meets UK's Major, Discusses CIS Aid

OW0102044092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0354 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] New York, Jan. 31 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Friday expressed doubt that Japan could extend massive economic aid to the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] due to a territorial dispute with Russia, Japanese officials said.

Miyazawa reiterated the Japanese position in a meeting with British Prime Minister John Major, the officials told reporters.

Major, who chaired the first summit of the United Nations Security Council, told Miyazawa consumer prices in the former Soviet Union have risen 10-20 fold, requiring a massive infusion of aid from the West.

Miyazawa: Russians Can Stay if Islands Revert

OW0302072892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0719 GMT 03 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 3 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa indicated Monday Japan will secure Russians rights of residence on the disputed northern territories off Hokkaido even after the islands are returned to Japanese control, government sources said.

Miyazawa said in a meeting with leaders of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) that he thinks it will be fine for the Russians to stay on the islands if they wish, even when the islands are returned because the living standards will be better, according to the sources.

Miyazawa on several occasions had stressed the importance of taking into account the Russians living on the four Russian-held islands—Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan, and the Habomai Islets—when dealing with issues surrounding the return of the islands to Japan.

The four islands were seized by the former Soviet Union in the closing days of World War II. The issue of the islands has hindered smooth Tokyo-Moscow relations and prevented the conclusion of a peace treaty.

Miyazawa expressed his hopes to make progress in solving the long-disputed territorial problem during Russian President Boris Yeltsin's planned visit to Tokyo in September.

The sources said Miyazawa also said U.S. President George Bush asked Japan last week to send some of the 6.5 billion yen in emergency aid Japan had targeted for Russia's far east region to the European part of Russia.

More on Miyazawa Remarks on Issue

OW0302134992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1322 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 3 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Monday that Russian residents of the four disputed islands off Hokkaido can continue to live on the islands when they have reverted to Japan.

It is Miyazawa's first remark guaranteeing the right of residence to Russians living in Shikotan, Kunashiri, Etorofu and the Habomai group of islets. Japan has long been calling for the return of the islands which were seized by the former Soviet Union at the end of World War II.

At a meeting of senior officials of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] and the government, Miyazawa said Japan must consider giving islanders the right of permanent residence if the islands are returned.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato supported Miyazawa's remark at a regular press conference Monday evening by saying it is natural to allow residents to continue living on the islands if they wish.

He said the government will study the legal aspects of the matter.

Besides the granting of permanent residence, Miyazawa said other issues such as providing housing for those who want to move out of the islands, improving the infrastructure and securing means of living for those who want to stay, should also be discussed.

Miyazawa also said Japan and Russia will discuss the territorial dispute continuously up to the visit to Japan by Russian President Boris Yeltsin in mid-September.

He said Tokyo and Moscow will start working-level negotiations on the dispute from the middle of this month, and that Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev is scheduled to visit Japan next month to discuss the islands.

A senior LDP official said after the meeting that Miyazawa seemed to regard the September visit by Yeltsin as "the terminal point" of the territorial dispute.

The remark indicates that Miyazawa is optimistic about signing a peace treaty and reaching basic agreement on the dispute at the September summit talks, LDP sources said.

Vice Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada also said Monday in a speech in Tokyo that this year will be "a year of chance" for Japan to make drastic improvements in its relations with Russia, since the Russian leadership is beginning to think the territorial problem should be solved on the basis of law and justice.

Tokyo Plans East Bloc Nuclear Experts Training

OW0202090092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0849 GMT 02 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 2 KYODO—The Science and Technology Agency plans to inaugurate a new training system that would invite nuclear power plant technicians and government officials from the former Soviet republics and East European countries to help them learn nuclear safety measures, officials said Sunday.

In fiscal 1992 starting in April, the agency plans to invite some 25 experts from the former Eastern bloc countries for three months, during which they would study Japan's advanced nuclear safety measures at the government-affiliated Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute, the officials said.

It will be the first time Japan gives training and technical assistance to atomic energy experts from the former Soviet Union.

The new training system could help ease growing international fears over safe management of nuclear facilities in East European countries and the former Soviet Union following the collapse of communism in those regions, the officials said.

Miyazawa Gives UN Security Council Speech

OW3101223492 Tokyo KYODO in English 2220 GMT 31 Jan 92

["Text" of speech by Prime Minister Miyazawa to the UN Security Council in New York on 31 January]

[Text] New York, Jan. 31 KYODO—Prime Minister Major,

Secretary General Butrus Ghali,

Your Majesty and Excellencies,

The year 1992 marks a point of departure toward a promising future for the United Nations. It is thus most appropriate that, for the first time in its history, the Security Council has convened a meeting of heads of state and government at the beginning of the year. I should like to convey my sincere respect to Prime Minister John Major for his exceptional leadership in making this summit meeting a reality.

I should also like to extend a heartfelt welcome to President Boris Yeltsin, who is present at the United Nations for the first time as the leader of the Russian Federation. The political and economic stability of the federation is of great importance to the peace and stability of the entire world. I am confident that Russia will successfully discharge its awesome responsibilities, not only as a member of the United Nations but also as a permanent member of the Security Council.

I also extend may warmest congratulations to Secretary General Butrus Ghali, who has assumed his new post amid growing expectations of the role to be played by the United Nations. I take this opportunity to express the firm determination of the Government of Japan to support him in all his endeavors.

The Changing World and the United Nations

Mr. President,

The cold war that divided East and West throughout the postwar period has finally ended and the world configuration is about to undergo epochal change. While the international situation in this post-cold war era is highly fluid, it also presents abundant opportunities to build a new and peaceful world order. The precise shape of this new order is not yet clear but all countries must join together to construct a new peace order appropriate to the new era, for the sake of the freedom and prosperity of humankind and the future of our planet.

At this time of transition, the United Nations has begun to play, both in theory and in practice, a central role in efforts to achieve and maintain world peace; expectations of the United Nations among the peoples of the world have reached new heights. Its role, and particularly that of the Security Council, during the (Persian) Gulf crisis remains vivid in our memory; U.N. involvement has been central to the attainment of peace in Central America, to the resolution of the conflict in Yugoslavia, and to the final phase of the Cambodia peace process.

U.N. peacekeeping operations have played a major role in ensuring world peace and security over the more than 40 years since the operation was first established. Their importance continues to grow, as reflected in the fact that five new peacekeeping operations were established in the last year alone. And in the Asia-Pacific region, the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), soon to be established, will have a range of activities unprecedented in U.N. history. Clearly, more active cooperation by members of the United Nations will be needed in this area. Keenly aware of this need, Japan is now striving to make the necessary domestic arrangements to enable it to contribute personnel to peacekeeping operations. I will do my utmost to have the relevant legislation approved by the Japanese Diet during its current session, which commenced this month.

What are the issues confronting the United Nations today as it responds to expectations of the role it is to play in the attainment and maintenance of peace?

Issues Confronting the U.N.

Mr. President,

The major issues are, in my view, first, how will the United Nations adjust itself to the epochal changes; second, how will it improve its effectiveness in peacekeeping and peacemaking efforts; and third, how can it secure a sound financial base that will enable it to carry out those efforts.

First of all, I believe that in securing a peaceful world order, the ideals and purposes of the U.N. Charter, which represent fundamental and universal values, will be of even greater relevance than ever before. It is incumbent upon member states to strive constantly to ensure that each of these values is respected in practice. At the same time, it is also necessary for the United Nations to evolve while adapting to a changing world. For example, certain sections of the U.N. Charter are based on the realities prevailing in 1945, when the United Nations was founded, which predate even the cold war. In addition, since the Security Council is at the center of U.N. efforts to maintain international peace and security, it is important to consider thoroughly ways to adjust its functions, composition, and other aspects so as to make it more reflective of the realities of the new era. This is a process in which Japan is prepared to take an active part.

Secondly, it is important to consider concrete measures to strengthen the functions of the U.N. So that it can work more effectively to secure a peaceful world order. The importance of peacekeeping activities does not need to be repeated here but I should like to comment on the need to strengthen the functions of the U.N. In the area of conflict prevention, it is essential that the secretary general, who plays a crucial role in his mediation efforts and good offices, be given sufficient information concerning tensions which could escalate into international conflicts. An important step in this direction was made last December with the adoption by the General Assembly of the declaration, proposed and cosponsored by Japan and other countries, on U.N. fact-finding in the maintenance of international peace and security. It would also be useful if countries with sophisticated information-gathering capabilities would provide, as appropriate, the secretary general with relevant information. I hope that this issue will receive due consideration.

Thirdly, a sound financial base is essential to enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations and to ensuring that its various activities are conducted smoothly. As reported last autumn by then Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, the United Nations continues to be faced with critical financial difficulties. At the end of 1991, a total of approximately 800 million dollars in assessed contributions was still outstanding. If the United Nations is to play a central role in establishing a new and peaceful world order, serious efforts by all member states are urgently required to resolve this issue. Peacekeeping operations are not immune to these difficulties. In particular, the availability of funds necessary for the start-up phase of a peacekeeping operation is essential to its smooth deployment. It is also important that states concerned, including those which would extend considerable financial support to the peacekeeping operations, become involved in consultations on its establishment from the earliest stage.

Strengthening the Activities and Functions of the International Court of Justice

I should add that the International Court of Justice (ICJ) also plays an important role in promoting the peaceful settlement of international conflicts. At this time, when strengthening the rule of law in international affairs should be an important element in the creation of a new and peaceful world order, it is necessary to make better use of the court and to enhance its functions.

Meeting the Challenges to All Humankind

Mr. President,

The threat of military force has long been considered the primary threat to peace and security. While this threat seems to have subsided comparatively, humankind's economic and technological achievements have, ironically, given rise to a host of global environmental problems and other threats of a nonmilitary nature to human survival. The United Nations will consider global environmental problems at the Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) to be held in June. I would hope that this is just a beginning and that the U.N. will hereafter address these new threats with the determination and effectiveness they demand.

The trend toward world peace that we are witnessing today will not endure unless the "dividends of peace" are shared by all but especially by the peoples of the South who are beset with famine, poverty, disease, and other hardships. The serious efforts of the United Nations in addressing the North-South problem should contribute to world peace and stability. It is also necessary to extend appropriate assistance to the self-help efforts of developing countries. Those efforts, in turn, will foster respect for human rights and the spread of democracy, values shared by people in all parts of the world.

Arms Control and Disarmament

Mr. President,

In securing peace, the United Nations also has a tremendously important role to play in the field of arms control and disarmament. Japan has been actively contributing to strengthening the role of the U.N. in that field and has strongly supported the efforts of the countries concerned toward disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, with a view to attaining strategic stability at a lower level of armament. I welcome the disarmament proposals made recently by President Bush and President Yeltsin. I sincerely hope that, through consultations between the United States and the Russian Federation, they will lead to concrete results.

The dramatic changes in the international milieu have once again highlighted the importance of disarmament efforts, including those to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. I need not point out to those assembled here today that, with the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the birth of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the question of how to prevent the dissemination of these weapons, of their production facilities, and of related technologies is one of vital importance. I commend the leaders of the CIS for their determination to liberate their institutions from military domination, and I hope that they will continue to work to prevent the proliferation of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction as well as related technologies.

The proliferation and transfer of weapons is a matter of concern to every member of the international community. Spurred by initiatives from Japan and the EC countries, last year the General Assembly formally adopted a resolution to establish of the Security Council to work together for the smooth implementation of this register. [sentence as received] Steps to strengthen the regime of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and to conclude successfully negotiations this year on the convention of chemical weapons are also of major importance. It is incumbent upon the Security Council to be seized with the developments made in these areas.

Conclusion

Mr. President,

In the light of the circumstances I have just described, I should like to propose the following measures to render the United Nations more suited to the international situation of the 21st century.

First, looking ahead to 1995, when the United Nations will celebrate its 50th anniversary, I would like to propose that discussions be held within the organization to ensure that it plays a central role in maintaining and strengthening the peaceful world order. These discussions should include a consideration of the functions and organizational structure of the United Nations.

Second, in order to secure the smooth functioning of peacekeeping operations, I would propose the creation, as necessary, of a consultative mechanism on their establishment, particularly the establishment of large-scale operations. This mechanism would be in the form of a consultative group of an appropriate size whose members would include countries which are major contributors of funds, among other things, as well as the countries concerned in the region. I would also emphasize the importance of securing sufficient funds for PKOs [peacekeeping operations] at their initial stage, and invite member states to make voluntary contributions to the PKO trust fund in the U.N.

Third, I propose that concrete ways be sought to strengthen the role of the United Nations in facing nonmilitary threats to the future security and prosperity of humankind, including those relating to the environment, refugees, and poverty. I would hope that the secretary general will bring these nonmilitary threats to the attention of the relevant U.N. organs.

Fourth, in the area of arms control, I propose that concrete measures be urgently considered for bolstering the efforts of the United Nations and the countries concerned to strengthen the control of and to prevent the proliferation of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction in the wake of the dissolution of the Soviet Union, and to restrain the international transfer of conventional weapons.

Mr. President,

It is the responsibility of all the members of the international community to work for the maintenance of world peace. As we enter the 21st century, the Security Council and, indeed, every country in the world is required to face in earnest the problems which lie before us as we shape a new and peaceful world order. Having recently commenced its term as a nonpermanent member of the Security Council, Japan realizes that present circumstances confer upon it particularly weighty responsibilities. Japan earnestly embraces these responsibilities without reservation and, as envisaged in its Constitution, is determined to continue to extend maximum support to the United Nations in the name of international cooperation.

Thank you.

Miyazawa, Yeltsin Meet in New York 31 Jan

OW0102021292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0200 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] New York, Jan. 31 KYODO—Russian President Boris Yeltsin told Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Friday that he would visit Japan in mid-September to tackle a Russo-Japanese territorial dispute and work toward a bilateral peace treaty, Japanese officials said.

Yeltsin also reportedly said in an hourlong discussion with Miyazawa that his country needs massive assistance from the West in the manner of the Marshall Plan carried out by the United States to reconstruct Europe after World War II.

The meeting came just after the first U.N. Security Council summit, where leaders of the council's 15 member nations discussed various ways to energize and revamp the United Nations to adapt to the post-cold war era.

It was the first meeting between Miyazawa and Yeltsin and the first top-level talks between the two countries since the demise of the Soviet Union.

Miyazawa said at a news conference he anticipates favorable developments in breaking the deadlock over the territorial issue.

He said his meeting with Yeltsin helped produce an "opening" for progress in the protracted negotiations on the matter, which kept Japan and the former Soviet Union from signing a peace treaty.

Miyazawa told Yeltsin that while he is welcome to visit Tokyo in September, Japan has strongly desired that he come before this year's Munich summit of seven major industrialized nations in early July, the government officials said.

Earlier in the week, Japanese Foreign Ministry officials told reporters that considering the Russian leader will have visited the other six members of the so-called "Group of Seven" nations when he goes to France in February, a delay in the Japan visit may create the impression the Russian leadership does not attach enough importance to the Asia-Pacific region.

Similar complaints were voiced in recent days when Yeltsin abruptly canceled a meeting with Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe, who was in Moscow at the time.

Officials quoted Yeltsin as saying that before visiting Japan, he wants to begin paving the way for a bilateral peace treaty, examining all aspects of the issue, including the outstanding territorial dispute.

Japan has long demanded the return of four islands off Hokkaido that the Soviet Army seized at the end of World War II. Wrangling over the territories, now controlled by the independent Russia, has prevented Tokyo and Moscow from signing a peace treaty.

Yeltsin noted that an agreement was reached during Watanabe's visit to Moscow (?early) in the week for a meeting to prepare for talks on the peace treaty issue February 10 and 11 in Moscow.

Yeltsin brought up the bilateral dispute, the officials said, quoting him as telling Miyazawa that Russia is prepared to fulfill its obligations under treaties signed with Japan by the former Soviet Union.

Yeltsin was believed to be alluding to the 1956 Japan-Soviet Joint Declaration, under which two of the four disputed islands were to be transferred to Japan after conclusion of a peace treaty. That pledge was later retracted.

Miyazawa responded that Japan welcomes the Russian Government's stance of respecting the principles of "law and justice" in approaching the territorial issue, the officials said.

Yeltsin was quoted as saying Moscow is trying to implement a wide spectrum of radical reforms at once, as step-by-step measures are no longer possible in Russia's straitened economic circumstances.

"Time is limited," he said, calling it the "last chance" to push reforms through, according to the officials.

The paitence of the Russian people is also limited and facing food shortages over the next three months of winter will be especially trying for them, Yeltsin was quoted as saying.

If the reforms fail, the Russian leader warned, it would most likely bring about a return to the dictatorial government that existed in the Soviet Union before its collapse.

Miyazawa Holds News Conference on Summit 1 Feb

OW0102031692 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0100 GMT 1 Feb 92

[News conference by Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa with unidentified Japanese reporters in New York—live]

[Text] [Unidentified official] We would like to start a joint news conference for reporters accompanying the prime minister at the UN Security Council [UNSC] summit. Please go ahead with your questions.

[Reporter] This will be the first question. After attending the UNSC summit talks, Mr. Prime Minister, what is your assessment of the results of the current summit?

[Miyazawa] There were two parts: one-half concerned the summit itself and discussions on various issues concerning the United Nations; the other half concerned talks with participants in the summit, either during the conference or on separate occasions. With regard to the first part, I feel that, ever since the Gulf crisis, the United Nations has come to play a major role; the crisis was utterly unexpected, and the United Nations was not well-prepared. But because the United Nations will be asked to play an ever-increasing role from now on, the major theme of the talks lay in what should be done now.

In this connection, I said that although the United Nations has remained almost, although not exactly, the same as what it was when it was established in 1945, it will be necessary for the United Nations to adapt itself to the changing times. If its activities continue to revolve around the secretary general, it will not have enough information. It also should be noted that not much importance has been attached to the United Nations so far. It is capable of keeping the peace. But it would be better if it could prevent peace. [as heard] These are some of the tasks.

But its weakness lies in funding. As far as Japan is concerned, we have never failed to make our payments. The United Nations has a weak financial structure because some nations have failed to make payments due.

Furthermore, even if no serious wars ever happen, the United Nations would have to deal with new global crises separate from military issues, for example environmental preservation and refugee relief work. It will be asked to assume such tasks.

Herein lay the major points of my speech.

In Chairman Major's concluding summary, he made the same contention. Arguments like this will be subject to public opinion from now on. There will be peacekeeping and war prevention tasks. There are two aspects of peacekeeping: efforts to make peace last forever and efforts to maintain it. Because discussions were held on the progress in all these areas, I believe that concrete developments will occur in this concern.

In this sense, when Mr. Major raised this idea, I wondered what achievements would be made as a result of the talks. However, I believe that it was good for us to meet here for talks. In this sense, I feel that it was good that I came here.

[Reporter] Mr. Prime Minister, as you have just mentioned—and you have highlighted three or four points—what was the major point you wanted to get across in your speech? I think, Mr. Prime Minister, that you indicated in your speech that Japan intends to pursue permanent membership in the UNSC. Why did you not state this point in definite terms?

[Miyazawa] If you ask me to define the major point I wanted to get across, I would have to summarize what I have just said. What I wanted to say is that since the United Nations has come to play an unexpectedly important role and will be asked to do so in the future, the secretary general and other staff must be prepared for this role. It is important that all member-nations take measures to make it easier for the secretary general to duly take action or make financial endorsements.

As for the UNSC issue, other nations may understand our intention through my statement about how it is rather strange to keep sticking to the same old regulations. Since UN membership has gone from 40 or 50 to more than 160, there are quite a few regional representatives, like India and Brazil, that would like to obtain permanent UNSC membership or nations that should be granted permanent membership from their perspective as observers. Certainly, there are some nations that should be excluded. If this issue is brought up, there will be no end to argument.

As far as distribution of expenses is concerned, Japan is second only to the United States.

Therefore, even if I did not state these things in definite terms, it should be clear to others. Just because something is clearly stated does not mean that an answer will be given immediately. On the contrary, the possibility is greater that such a statement would result in the opposite. I am well aware of this possibility. In this connection, I merely stated what I thought I should say but refrained from saying what should be clear to others.

[Reporter] What do you think of responses or reactions to Japan's demand for reforming the organization and system of the United Nations?

[Miyazawa] I have read the statement, or summary, issued by the chairman at the concluding session, and I feel that it is, in the first place, in line with our contention. In this connection, even though what I said was not very clever, I think what I said represents views cherished by others.

[Reporter] Mr. Prime Minister, you have just concluded your first summit with President Yeltsin. It seems that a decision was made on his visiting Japan in September.

Prime Minister Miyazawa, your experiences in New York seem to mark the most important moment in relations between our two nations. I would like to know if you have sensed any new responses to the northern territories issue, in particular, as a result of these talks.

[Miyazawa] Well, I think I have sensed such a response. The talks were of great interest. I think they were also very significant.

[Reporter] What responses do you mean?

[Miyazawa] Well, since you asked a good question, I merely tried to answer just what I was asked. [laughter from reporters] Of course, resolving this issue will take a long, long time.

[Reporter] What is your evaluation or appraisal of your current visit to New York, including your talks with President Yeltsin?

[Miyazawa] During my visit here, I have kept in mind the judgment that the time now has come for us to engage in final negotiations, without any intermissions, on the northern territories issue. President Yeltsin seems to have talked to President Bush about this issue, although I hope not in detail. It would be better if he has not. At any rate, after taking various factors into consideration, Mr. Yeltsin himself stated his hope to visit Japan for talks on this issue.

After all, there is a time for these matters. As far as Japan is concerned, I think that an opportunity has been created for us to start talks on the issues of greatest importance. There will be committee talks between Councillor Saito and Mr. Kunadze in February, and Foreign Minister Kozyrev, with whom Foreign Minister Watanabe has just recently held talks in Moscow, will be visiting, probably in March. These talks will lead to President Yeltsin's visit, probably in September. Although I am not saying that we can be optimistic about future developments, I think that a schedule for talks on the territories issue in due time has been worked out.

[Reporter] We understand why the issue of overall aid to the former USSR could not be brought up at the same table as this issue. But President Yeltsin seems to have mentioned, with considerable enthusiasm, technological and financial aid from major Western nations to be applied toward abolition of nuclear weapons. This seems quite different from past trends. What do you think of this shift?

[Miyazawa] As a separate issue, the United States has worked out a figure of $400 million. But the United States actually possesses know-how about how to apply this $400 million in aid, while Japan does not, and I think therein lies the difference. Since no concrete details have been mentioned, I cannot answer the question accurately. My feeling is that the aid equivalent to the $400 million figure set out by the United States will not be included in emergency, humanitarian, or technological aid that we have proposed.

Therefore, even if such realistic issues should be brought up in connection with our nation, we do not have technology, know-how, or personnel. Therefore, I do not think this is an issue for the present moment.

[Official] As time is running short, only one more question please.

[Reporter] It seems that Japan would like to have had President Yeltsin visit Japan before this summer's international summit. Now his visit has been postponed until September. Will this have an impact?

[Miyazawa] No, no. I never had any particular thought about his visit coming before the summit.

[Reporter] You mean you did not have any such idea?

[Miyazawa] Considering the order of various issues, I did hope that his visit would occur before the end of the year.

[Reporter] What about the concluding points for the territories issue or the peace treaty?

[Miyazawa] Concerning this point, I merely stated that a schedule for negotiations has been worked out. Only after the conclusion of the talks will we know the results of the talks. At any rate, it is now very clear what will take place, as well as where and when. In this sense, I think progress has been made.

[Official] Time is up. Any more questions? We would like to conclude this news conference. Thank you very much.

[Miyazawa] It has been a long time since I met you last. Take good care of yourselves. I have been reading your reports very carefully. [laughter from reporters]

Proposes Permanent UNSC Seat

OW3101222192 Tokyo KYODO in English 2209 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Text] New York, Jan. 31 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa proposed at a historic summit conference Friday that Japan be given a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council [SC] as part of U.N. efforts "to reform itself and to adapt to a changing world."

Foreign Ministry officials accompanying Miyazawa on his U.N. visit said the proposal to change the 15-member Security Council was the first made by a Japanese leader in an international forum.

In a speech to leaders of the 15 Security Council members, Miyazawa also called for urgent consideration of measures to address issues of nuclear arms management and control of weapons of mass destruction because of the demise of the Soviet Union.

The Security Council members will discuss possible changes to U.N. peacekeeping operations and issues related to the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

Japanese diplomatic sources said Miyazawa's speech was alluding to possible proposals for a U.N. resolution on the issue, as well as Japan's plan to host an international seminar on export controls for nuclear weapons and technology.

Miyazawa, reading his speech in English, said that as the Security Council is at the center of U.N. efforts to maintain world peace and security, "it is important to consider thoroughly ways to adjust its functions, composition, and other aspects so as to make it more reflective of the realities of the new era."

Since January 1, Japan has been serving a two-year term on the Security Council, having been elected last October by the General Assembly for a record seventh time to one of the body's 10 nonpermanent seats.

The five permanent members—the United States, Russia (which succeeded the Soviet Union), China, Britain, and France—are the victorious powers of World War II and have privileged veto power under the 1945 U.N. Charter over matters before the Council.

Miyazawa recommended in his speech that discussions on the functions and organizational structure of the U.N. be held as the 50th anniversary of the U.N. Charter in 1995 approaches.

"This is a process in which Japan is prepared to take an active part," Miyazawa said at the unprecedented U.N. Security Council summit.

Japan's U.N. Ambassador Yoshio Hatano said in a recent newspaper interview that Japan is campaigning for a permanent seat "in five years."

Miyazawa repeated a demand made to the General Assembly last September by then Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama for the deletion of two clauses in the U.N. Charter that brand Japan and other vanquished states of World War II as "enemy states."

"Certain sections of the U.N. Charter are based on realities prevailing in 1945, when the U.N. was founded, predating even the cold war," the prime minister said.

Drawing attention to the unprecedented scale of the U.N. role in peacekeeping operations in Cambodia, Miyazawa said his government wants the Diet to pass a bill in this session to allow Japan to participate in such peacekeeping operations.

Officials said Miyazawa was merely expressing his "conviction and will," rather than making an "international promise" on the matter.

Last year the Diet failed to pass a similar bill allowing overseas deployment of the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) to participate in peacekeeping activities.

The dispatch of the SDF overseas is regarded by many Japanese as a violation of Japan's Constitution, which bans the use of force as a means of settling international disputes, and many Asian countries, fearing resurgent Japanese militarism, dislike the idea.

Miyazawa also proposed the U.N. establish an advisory system for peacekeeping operations, particularly for large ones.

Miyazawa urged the members of the U.N. to contribute to a trust fund established by Japan in 1989 as a reserve for the U.N. to draw on when it is necessary to start peacekeeping activities quickly.

Japan has contributed 6 million dollars to the fund and expects to contribute 10 million more by March 1993. So far, however, it has only attracted minor contributions from two countries—Thailand and Liechtenstein.

Officials said the expression of Japan's desire for a permanent seat was the most Miyazawa could say without jeopardizing Japan's strategy of quiet diplomatic efforts on the issue.

The diplomats said the timing of the proposal was more or less forced upon Japan when British Prime Minister John Major suddenly called for the conference, creating an opportunity Japan could neither afford to miss or to overexploit.

They said the presence at the summit of the leaders of India and Venezuela, both outspoken proponents of a Security Council overhaul, also influenced the decision.

Papers Support Miyazawa's Call for UN Reform

OW0202074892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0645 GMT 02 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 2 KYODO—Leading Japanese newspapers Sunday editorially supported Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's call for reform of the United Nations at Friday's U.N. Security Council summit.

"Prime Minister Miyazawa indirectly expressed in his speech that Japan should be granted a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council...this request is right," the YOMIURI SHIMBUN said.

"There is no doubt it is time to review the composition of the Security Council, which reflects the victors of World War II. Japan should play a greater political role in the U.N. in the new era," the paper said.

"But how can we explain to the international community the political situation in Japan, which has failed to make personnel contributions to peacekeeping operations, one of the most important roles of the U.N., while supporting strengthening of the U.N. and seeking greater status."

The YOMIURI called for an early passage of the peacekeeping operations bill pending at the current Diet session, which would allow overseas dispatch of Japanese troops to participate in U.N. peacekeeping activities.

The leading economic daily NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN said it is clear the present U.N. system does not correspond with the fact Japan and Germany are major donators to the world body.

NIHON KEIZAI praised Miyazawa's proposed revisions of the U.N. Charter and reorganization of the Security Council, saying it is necessary for Japan to play a leadership role in reforming the U.N. because of the possibility of becoming a permanent member of the council.

The ASAHI SHIMBUN said it is timely that Miyazawa called for reform of the U.N. reviewing the Security Council, which plays the big role in security and political issues in the world, is the key issue, the paper said.

"It was wise for Prime Minister Miyazawa not to directly express the hope that Japan be a permanent member of the Security Council but to urge thorough consideration of ways to adjust the council's functions and composition so as to make it more reflective of the time."

"Because if Japan became a permanent member, it might have to play a military role. Japan should seek a role that is suited to conditions at home."

The MAINICHI SHIMBUN, however, expressed doubt whether Miyazawa's proposal was timely, saying no foreign news agencies reported his intentions were understood by other leaders.

Watanabe on UN Summit, Bush-Yeltsin Talks

OW0202134292 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0000 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Panel discussion on "UN Security Council Summit Talks, Nuclear Disarmament, and How the World Will Move" with Michio Watanabe, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Makoto Momoi, commentator; Takehiko Kamo, Tokyo University professor; and Yutaka Akino, Tsukuba University professor; moderated by NHK commentator Korehito Obama—live]

[Excerpts] [Obama] Good morning. The UN Security Council [UNSC] summit in New York has just concluded. At the summit, plans for strengthening the UN's role in maintaining world peace in the post-cold war era have been worked out. The United Nations, which failed to carry out its tasks well during the cold war, will now start making new moves.

Meanwhile, U.S. President Bush and Russian President Yeltsin held talks, and it has been decided that the two nations will cooperate on issues like drastic reductions of nuclear weapons, to establish friendly relations between them.

In view of such moves, therefore, we have invited Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe to this panel discussion on how the world will move from now on.

First, we would like to ask your views on the talks between President Bush and President Yeltsin; they concluded about five hours ago. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Watanabe, what is your assessment of the talks between the two top leaders?

[Watanabe] In general, the fact is that the issues discussed are not new; they have not come up just since Yeltsin's assumption of power. The two confronting superpowers—the United States and the Soviet Union—have reached a deadlock in the race for military expansion. They are also at an economic impasse. Therefore, proposals on START were made during talks between Gorbachev and Bush—no, Reagan. That is, proposals on START and other issues were made and an accord was reached at Gorbachev-Reagan talks. Moreover, proposals were made for the complete abolition of intermediate nuclear missiles and for strategic nuclear arms. During this first stage, various measures were taken. Some accords have been carried out, others have not, and others will be carried out starting now. Thus, these current talks may be seen as a kind of continuation.

At this juncture, Yeltsin has undertaken more drastic reform in Russia, and the former Soviet Union has fractured. For the time being, the republics are unified under the umbrella of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] in order to deal with issues like nuclear weapons. But the reality is that the Commonwealth is made up of several countries. Under these circumstances, President Yeltsin, who plays a leading role in control of nuclear weapons, has visited the United States and held talks with President Bush on various issues, including future disarmament and other global problems. I think this is a major and unprecedented advance in the second stage of the formation of a new world order [words indistinct].

[Obama] I see. Then, an accord must have been reached at the summit on cooperation between the two nations in abolishing nuclear weapons. Further negotiations will be held later on concrete measures. As the minister has just mentioned, the two nations had no choice but to move toward nuclear disarmament because of their economic stalemate. But are there other concerns or other factors forming the background for this move? Mr. Kamo, what do you think of it?

[Kamo] I think there are motives or reasons for the actions of the U.S. people, as well as Mr. Yeltsin, and others of the CIS. First, the process of nuclear arms reduction and disarmament is still in progress and has not yet been completed. [passage omitted]

[Obama] Then I would like to ask the foreign minister. Strategic nuclear weapons in the Soviet Union are located in four republics—Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan—and tactical nuclear weapons are said to be held in all 12 republics. The Russian Republic, or rather President Yeltsin, made promises for reduction of nuclear weapons. Does he really have the power to control the whole CIS on this issue?

[Watanabe] This is a question that will continue to be raised henceforth, I think. The abolition of nuclear arms is the ideal goal pursued by mankind. Russia is moving toward democracy and freedom, away from one-party autocracy. This can be called a revolution. The country's system has turned into one whereby voices of the people are heeded. Besides, there was the Chernobyl power plant explosion incident—which is something like having a nuclear bomb dropped on themselves before being able to drop one on another country. As such, the Russian people are aware how dreadful the nuclear arms are. There is this background to note.

In addition, there are the financial problems as talked about here earlier. The Russian people know that there is not much merit in both sides doing the stupid thing of continuing to increase arms.

Then the Soviet Union collapsed, and the United States came to the side of wanting to help the country, proposing that both sides mutually reduce their arms. Of course, things will not happen overnight. As someone mentioned earlier, the armed forces would not want to give in. Even though things will not happen overnight, the country will move toward that direction for sure, though gradually. There may be no problem as far as strategic nuclear arms are concerned. Even though Russia is now saying that the tactical nuclear arms now in all republics will be put under unified control, whether the tactical nuclear arms can be really controlled will depend on future negotiations.

Another relevant point is how the international community will exert pressure on this issue—by way of deciding to postpone extending assistance or resorting to other ways.

Hence, I will say I am not optimistic about the prospect though I have hopes about it. [passage omitted]

[Obama] When we heard reports that while Foreign Minister Watanabe was visiting Moscow, President Yeltsin was away to inspect the Black Sea Fleet, we thought that the relationship between Russia and Ukraine may be cracking. We were driven to guess that there were some problems for the control over the Black Sea Fleet. What is your view on that matter, Mr. Foreign Minister?

[Watanabe] I would like to hear views of experts on that.

[Obama] Mr. Momoi, what is your view on that question?

[Momoi] I know no better than the foreign minister. I think it was rude—though the word may not be appropriate—to do something like that to the foreign minister. There must have been some important incident which had to be attended to. [passage omitted]

[Obama] Will you speak, please, Mr. Foreign Minister?

[Watanabe] Until the day before, the schedule for a meeting had been set—for the next day.

[Obama] You mean your meeting with President Yeltsin.

[Watanabe] Yes, yes, yes. Then on the day of the meeting, I was informed I could not meet him. First, there were reports of his being sick. Their official explanation to me was that there had occurred some problem, negotiations which he had to finalize before departing for the United States, and that he needed about two days to work on it. It did not sound convincing. But this did not happen to me only. It happened to people of all countries, including the United States.

After all, he did not even attend the Middle East peace conference he was supposed to chair. His whereabouts were unknown for two days. My instinct told me that there was an unresolved problem related to negotiations with the United States over the military issue, even though they did not give any further explanation.

But later he was very apologetic about it. At the beginning of a meeting with Mr. Miyazawa, he apologized for not having been able to keep the appointment with the foreign minister. I think it was something inevitable. They did not say anything about having me meet him if I could delay my departure. Besides, there was no need for that. These things cannot be solved overnight. [passage omitted on remarks by other participants]

[Obama] I would like to change the topic. The summit of the UN Security Council members was held in New York. I would like to have the topic changed to that: evaluation of the Security Council summit. [passage omitted]

[Watanabe] There are various opinions on this issue. Since major leaders gathered there for only a couple of days, it was impossible for them to discuss and settle all the issues. As a matter of fact, in Russia and other nations now in political chaos, people have no idea what their own future course of action will be. However, we still regard the Russian Republic as the successor to the former Soviet Union, and have no objection to its taking over the Soviet Union's permanent membership in the UNSC. Under such circumstances, it was enough for us to just have an opportunity to listen to opinions of Russia because Japan also has its own opinions to speak out. The UNSC meeting was the first attempt to hold a summit meeting of all the 15 UNSC members. The UNSC has recently reshuffled its nonpermanent members, and Japan also obtained the membership for the seventh time to serve as a UNSC member for the next two years. I think that the summit was very signinficant as the first meeting of the new UNSC.

At the summit talks, it was proposed that the United Nations should deal with worldwide financial and environmental problems and strengthen its own functions. The meeting was very helpful to indicate what the world's common opinion is. In addition, taking advantage of this opportunity, the Soviet [as heard] and U.S. leaders had a bilateral meeting, and Mr. Miyazawa also met with both of them. I think that these were also big eye-catchers this time. [passage omitted on remarks by Kamo and Momoi]

In fact, joint declarations and diplomatic statements are often difficult to understand unless a reader knows what is behind the scene. I guess many people wonder what the true meaning of the UNSC joint declaration is. Diplomatic papers always have hidden meanings, but they cannot be made public in view of diplomatic etiquette and other reasons. Therefore, it is difficult to make diplomatic affairs easy for everyone to understand. Diplomacy is to build up international confidence. Bilateral agreements may be abstract but only the two parties know everything. It is difficult to create occasions to visit many countries at a time even for confidence building, but the summit talks enable us to have a chance to meet all leaders of the UNSC permanemt member nations. I think that the summit talks were very meaningful on this point.

[Akino] [passage omitted] Foreign Minister, while the UNSC summit is unlikely to become a regular event in the future, what is Japan's opinion on the way future summit talks should be? Which summit should lead the world—economic summit [of the Group of Seven] or political summit?

[Watanabe] Well, a summit is a summit. We have summit talks every year. The summit talks of major nations were started to discuss economic affairs, and UN talks were designed to primarily focus on political issues. However, it is true that recent summit talks involve more political issues than ever before because, in the present world, economic affairs are almost always regarded as political affairs. The UNSC meeting was proposed by Mr. Major, who wanted to sponsor another summit meeting before his term as G-7 chairman expired on 31 January. We accepted his offer because there was nothing wrong with it. I have no idea whether the UNSC summit will be held in future on a regular basis. [passage omitted on remarks by Kamo and Akino]

[Obama] Mr. Foreign Minister, while Mr. Miyazawa voiced support for Japan's becoming a permanent member of the UN Security Council, Germany was not there this time, as noted earlier. I think the composition of the United Nations needs to be changed if its functions are to be strengthened. What do you think?

[Watanabe] I think this is a difficult question. One of the problems, cited for a long time in the past, is the enemy clause regarding Japan and Germany as enemy nations. There has been talk about the need to delete that clause. Then, there has been talk of the need to include Japan as a permanent council member. There are these two problems. Both of them involve the need to change something like the articles of incorporation in private companies. The problems can be solved only by revising the UN Charter, which means that a special resolution will be necessary. That will take a lot of time. The enemy clause is actually a dead clause. It is not in use. After all, Japan is not an enemy. How can an enemy nation be a non permanent member of the council? Hence, I am not too concerned. I am all for Japan becoming a permanent member of the council, and I am asking for it. As Asia is a region of a few billion people, there are other nations which want to become permanent member nations. Some Latin American nations also want to become members of the council. But if it means these member aspirants getting together in a united campaign front, there will occur some frictions among the existing member nations. Hence there is no need for some nations to get together and campaign together. But our independent campaign asking UN member nations to support Japan as a permanent member of the council will continue. That is how I think. After all, Japan is making so much contribution. [passage omitted on remarks by other participants]

[Obama] Mr. Foreign Minister, Mr. Miyazawa talked about the importance of collecting information and peacekeeping operations in Cambodia. What is the Japanese Government's plan in this regard?

[Miyazawa] The government in principle supports the strengthening of the UN role. In financial terms, Japan is bearing a considerable part of the burden—12.45 percent. There is no question that Japan is a major nation. My basic way of thinking about the United Nations is that it should return to its starting point. The starting point was the concept that with World War II over, there must not be another war and that the world peace must be preserved. The concept of founding the United Nations was the same as that for formulating the Japanese Constitution.

But eventually there was the confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union, and veto rights were exercised by both, making unanimous decisions impossible. There have thus been so many instances in which the United Nations could not perform its intended functions. That has been the fact.

But then there was the Gulf war and Russia took the position of expressing willingness to render support to the multinational forces. It said at least it would not veto the forces' being sent, and China abstained from voting on that. There were these developments. This means the United Nations came to perform its functions more effectively. As there will be further progress in the world, the UN role in the world peacekeeping operations will grow. The prevention of a war; arbitration in conflicts; maintenance of security; and issues of narcotics, terrorism, refugees, and humanitarian aid cannot be performed by individual nations alone.

For instance, African nations, which have been hit by disasters, cannot provide peacekeeping forces. Now the Soviet Union cannot support Cuba, but there is no assurance that regional conflicts will not occur. What needs to be done? I think we should review organization of the United Nations and think about a new role of the

United Nations befitting the time. [passage omitted on remarks by other participants]

[Obama] Do you think that Mr. Miyazawa, by referring to Japan's peacekeeping operations bill [at the United Nations], made an international commitment, Mr. Foreign Minister?

[Watanabe] He said that in a speech at the United Nations. So if his remarks are interpreted as a public pledge to the world, we cannot help it. The international peacekeeping operations by the United Nations were recognized as valuable by the Nobel Prize committee. But there are also people who complain that it is inappropriate for the Self-Defense Forces to make personnel contributions though I cannot understand them. There are, in fact, also people who complain that allowing the minesweepers to participate in minesweeping operations was in conflict with the Constituion.

Suppose that the Self-Defense Forces troops were sent to Cambodia in a state of being almost unarmed at the country's request to help its peace efforts and to help remove mines, construct bridges, purify water, fix ports to enable ships to dock, install communications systems, transport food supplies, and cure malaria patients. If the people insist that such actions violate the Constitution and that only Japan must not participate in such activities, I must say I cannot understand them. I must ask for the understanding of the nation in this regard.

I think the government public relations activities have been inadequate.

[Kamo] Mr. Minister, this is not related to the topic of this program. The integration of the EC is progressing. What I can feel from the process of this is that the nations are exchanging their views and thus are succeeding in maintaining their own invidivuality and indpendence while building up a framework of policy cooperation among themselves. The word may not be appropriate, but this is something like the common sharing of sovereignty. This framework is the one that enables the representation of views of many people as Mr. Akino referred to earlier. I think it is important that Japan also pursue actions in the United Nations or the commitment for the peacekeeping operations in a similar concept. I think that concept is important.

[Watanabe] I also think so. Once nations decide to send their troops for the peacekeeping operations, the troops act under the instructions of the secretary general regardless of who will become the commander in chief. In a sense, this is an act going over the wall of sovereignty. Probably, such actionss will grow in the future. [passage omitted on remarks by other participants]

[Obama] Mr. Minister, will you comment on the issue of the northern territories' reversion to Japan?

[Watanabe] To begin with, they are our sovereign territories. I have no intention of buying them with money. President Yeltsin and the new administration have said they want to solve the issue based on law and sincerity. We will give full trust to that. Based on that trust, we will watch further moves of the Russians. We will have to see if they really mean it. While watching the moves, where the humanitarian aid is concerned, we will do what we can. The aid has actually begun. [passage omitted on remarks by other participants]

Peacekeeping Troop Dispatch Plans Reconsidered

OW0202104492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1019 GMT 02 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 2 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe indicated Sunday the government may drop plans for a dispatch of Japanese troops as part of Japan's contribution to United Nations peacekeeping operations.

In a nationally televised interview, Watanabe said Japan's international contribution "may not go as far as the dispatch of a peacekeeping force, but it can allow the Self-Defense Forces to transport goods and offer medical treatment to injured people."

The foreign minister added that the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) will need to unify its opinion with at least the centrist opposition Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) in order to successfully pass the draft legislation being wrangled over in the current Diet session.

The bill was railroaded through the LDP-dominated House of Representatives in December, but opposition legislators have vowed to defeat the bill in the House of Councillors, which they control.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, while in New York on Friday for a summit meeting of the U.N. Security Council member nations, stressed to other leaders the importance of U.N. peacekeeping operations.

Referring to Miyazawa's remarks and his desire to pass the peacekeeping operations cooperation bill, Watanabe said in another nationally televised television interview that "it could not be helped" that Miyazawa's pledge to pass the bill would be taken as a sign of Japan's international public commitment.

Official on Possible Peacekeeping Bill Revision

OW0302045692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0442 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 3 KYODO—The Japanese Government may consider revising a bill that would allow military personnel to contribute to UN peacekeeping operations but it does not completely favor abandoning plans to dispatch troops, a senior official indicated Monday.

The comment came one day after Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe suggested that the bill be reworked to limit Self-Defense Forces (SDF) personnel participation in support of activities that would not risk involvement in combat.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, rejected the suggestion that SDF personnel be restricted to activities such as transportation and medical assistance but he said revisions would be considered depending on their content.

The official suggested that a step-by-step approach might be considered, in which SDF personnel would initially join in support operations and eventually be dispatched for peacekeeping duties.

In a related comment, Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Kato said the government plans to pursue passage of the current version of the peacekeeping bill.

Kato declined to respond directly to reporters queries on whether the government might consider revising the bill in the future.

The legislation would allow overseas deployment of Japanese troops to potential combat zones for the first time since World War II.

It was passed by the House of Representatives in December amid a brawl involving dissatisfied opposition lawmakers.

Legislators in the opposition-controlled House of Councillors have vowed to defeat the bill, which Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa has declared as a top priority of his three-month-old government.

More Controversy Over Quality of U.S. Workers

Illiteracy Rate Discussed

OW3101161292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1602 GMT 31 Jan 92

["Chrysler Also Fretted About One-Third Illiteracy Rate"—KYODO headline]

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 31 KYODO—U.S. automaker Chrysler Corp. cosponsored a 1988 televised learn-to-read program because, the sponsors said, one-third of adults in southeast Michigan could not read a McDonald's hamburger shop menu, a Montana resident said Friday.

Recent claims of a one-third illiteracy U.S. rate by a Japanese parliamentary leader have sparked an angry outcry in America.

But Billings, Montana, resident Vincent Larsen, produced a McDonald's dinner mat decrying a similar illiteracy problem and promoting a literacy program cosponsored by Chrysler—whose fiery chairman has been an outspoken critic of Japan and supporter of U.S. workers.

"It's hard to imagine that one-third of all adults here in southeastern Michigan—one-third of the people who come through our doors—can't read our menu," the mat says. "Or a help wanted ad. Or the instructions on a bottle of medicine. But that's the hard truth."

Larsen, 62, said he received the mat on his tray with a meal at a McDonald's in September 1988 while on vacation near Detroit, home of Chrysler and the other of America's "Big Three" carmakers. He sent a copy of the mat by facsimile to KYODO NEWS SERVICE in Tokyo.

On January 20, Japanese newspapers reported that House of Representatives Speaker Yoshio Sakurauchi blasted the American work force as lazy and said one-third of Americans could not read.

U.S. executives and union officials denied the allegations.

Sakurauchi later said he had been misunderstood, and a Foreign Ministry spokesman quoted the former foreign minister as saying he had been misquoted on the illiteracy comment.

The mat outlines a literacy program on station WXYZ-TV beginning July 24, 1988. Chrysler is listed with K Mart Corp., Kroger Co., and the TV station as sponsors.

Larsen, a petroleum exploration consultant who described himself as "just a geologist," said he kept the mat to show friends.

"When old what's-his-name from Chrysler (Chairman Lee Iacocca) started his tirade about the Japanese auto companies, I remembered that Chrysler was one of those listed on the tray mat," Larsen said by telephone Friday.

Iacocca has been one of the most outspoken critics of the Japanese market and automakers, claiming they keep U.S. products out unfairly. During and after a trade-promotion trip to Japan that he joined with President George Bush, Iacocca said the U.S. must force open the Japanese market and defended U.S. workers.

Iacocca has not been quoted specifically on Sakurauchi's remarks.

"You can see that officials with Chrysler, K Mart, and Kroger clearly understood that many people in southeast Michigan needed more education," Larsen said.

"One third can't read," he said. "America has a lot of repair work to do, and it starts with education."

Miyazawa: U.S. Work Ethic Eroded

OW0302100192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0939 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 3 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Monday speculative greed has eroded the American work ethic and made U.S. products less competitive.

"I suspect that American workers have come to lack a work ethic," Miyazawa said, charging that speculative money games on Wall Street over the past decade have tempted many away from making high-quality products.

"Because so many American university graduates were recruited into Wall Street, the number of engineers in charge of developing goods has declined," Miyazawa said in response to a question by former Trade Minister Kabun Muto in the House of Representatives Budget Committee.

The U.S. work ethic has eroded, the prime minister said, after years of "junk-bond" deals and leveraged buy-outs, with Americans "acquiring others' property without cash in their hands."

Muto, before the same committee, blasted America's "Big Three" automakers, saying they should accept criticism for the U.S. trade deficit with Japan.

He quoted "American Consumers" as cautioning against buying a General Motors, Ford, or Chrysler car built after the weekend.

"American auto workers cannot throw themselves wholly into their work Mondays as they played too much Saturdays and Sundays," Muto said. "On Fridays, they cannot put their hearts and souls into their work as they are preoccupied with their plans to play starting the next day."

The comments by Miyazawa and Muto—marking the latest in a series of less-than-flattering statements by Japanese politicians about U.S. workers—come on the heels of reported remarks by House of Representatives Speaker Yoshio Sakurauchi that American workers are lazy and largely illiterate.

Miyazawa said the United States has reached a "serious situation" partly because of a "loose interpretation of the policy of creating valuable things through production activities."

Instead, many U.S. investors incurred heavy debts buying out companies and then "went bankrupt because they could not make interest payments," Miyazawa said.

The prime minister said the same forces were at work in Japan's so-called "bubble economy" of skyrocketing land and securities prices but he said the collapse of the speculative bubble in Japan "gave the whole nation a lesson."

Muto, in his comments on the U.S. auto industry, said he held the Big Three management more responsible for the industry's woes than auto workers and said U.S. executives should not hold Japan solely responsible for the bilateral trade imbalance.

He said the U.S. should revive a management philosophy of boosting productivity, noting that it was Americans who taught Japan how to bolster productivity after World War II by setting up a research institute on the subject.

In a related development, Trade Minister Kozo Watanabe defended the plan for boosting imports of U.S.-made auto parts agreed to during U.S. President George Bush's January visit.

Watanabe said his ministry and the Japanese auto industry reached the import targets included in the plan "to prevent the United States from adopting trade protectionism and a managed trade policy."

Meanwhile, Posts and Telecommunications Minister Hideo Watanabe acknowledged accepting "a large amount of money" from parents of high school students by telling them "the results of (university) entrance examinations."

"I offer my heart-felt apology because I caused great annoyance to the officials of various universities and to the parents and students who are now facing the entrance examination season," he said.

But he repeated denials that he used his influence and connections with private university leaders to persuade schools to admit students with poor test results.

In the exam scandal, the posts minister was accused by the former treasurer of his political office of accepting several hundred million yen to use his influence with the universities to secure the admission of the students with poor test marks over the past 10 years.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa later issued a statement saying that Miyazawa did not intend to criticize American workers in his remarks to the Diet.

Hanabusa said the prime minister was only trying to emphasize the importance of hard work in the production of quality goods in the wake of Japan's bubble economy.

The spokesman added that he regrets any misunderstandings that might result from Miyazawa's remarks.

Lower Ceiling for U.S.-Bound Auto Exports Seen

OW0102072892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0715 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 1 KYODO—Japan is considering a substantial cut in the annual ceiling of Japanese car exports to the United States from the present 2.3 million units, government sources said Saturday. The sources said the Ministry of International Trade and Industry believes such a step is unavoidable in view of the economic situation in the United States.

They said the ministry also doubts that Japan's offer to increase purchases of U.S. cars and auto parts alone will help the U.S. automobile industry to overcome a difficult situation. Five major Japanese automakers offered to nearly double their purchases of U.S. auto parts and increase imports of U.S. cars when U.S. President George Bush visited Japan earlier this year.

Some ministry officials said the current situation facing the U.S. auto industry is similar to that when Japan imposed voluntary restraint on car exports to the U.S. in fiscal 1981, according to the sources. The sources said the ministry is watching developments in the U.S. presidential election campaign. They said the ministry is withholding its decision on whether to continue the voluntary restraint on car exports to the U.S. until late February.

Japan limited its car exports to the U.S. to 1.68 million units a year in fiscal 1981. The ceiling was raised to 1.85 million units in fiscal 1984 and to 2.3 million units in fiscal 1985.

Miyazawa Hopes for Success of Uruguay Round

OW0302051792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0507 GMT 03 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 3 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Monday that Japan hopes for a successful conclusion "one way or another" of the protracted Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

"We want to see the round concluded one way or another," Miyazawa said in response to a question from former International Trade and Industry Minister Kabun Muto during deliberations in the House of Representatives Budget Committee.

Calling the Uruguay Round "an ambitious trial," he warned that failure to successfully finish it may lead to the birth of trading blocs.

Watanabe Terms Rice Import Tariffs 'an Option'

OW0302110692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1055 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 3 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said Monday Japan has an option of accepting "prohibitively high" tariffs on rice imports to bring ongoing global trade talks to a successful conclusion.

Speaking before the House of Representatives' budget committee, Watanabe said that rice is an important issue, but expressed doubts about sticking to a near total ban on rice imports.

"Is it right to continue to refuse to import even a ton of rice? Apart from the issue of how many thousands of tons of rice should be open to import, there is an option to open the rice market partially," he said.

Noting that the United States has said that it is OK to introduce tariffs that are extremely high to replace non-tariff barriers such as import bans, Watanabe said Japan should "consider both options."

Watanabe has repeatedly suggested that Tokyo could accept opening up the rice market by replacing the import ban with tarriffs as proposed by Arthur Dunkel, director general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, who is overseeing the Uruguay Round of trade talks.

In a draft proposal made last December, Dunkel called for replacing all farm trade barriers, such as import bans and quotas, with tariffs that would be reduced gradually as a way to liberalize farm trade.

Japan has not decided yet whether to accept Dunkel's proposal, known as tariffication.

Miyazawa Issues Statement Apologizing for Abe

OW0102085892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0847 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] New York, Feb. 1 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Saturday apologized to the Japanese people for the bribery indictment of former State Minister Fumio Abe. Miyazawa, in a statement issued in New York, said he is "renewing deep apologies" and is "taking the situation seriously."

The prime minister said he will make his best efforts to establish higher political ethics in order to restore public trust in politicians as soon as possible. Miyazawa also said he will put energy into achieving political reforms.

In Tokyo on Saturday, prosecutors charged Abe, a former state minister and director general of the Hokkaido and Okinawa Development Agencies, with taking 80 million yen from the now-defunct steel frame maker, Kyowa Co.

Miyazawa Denies Intention To Dissolve Diet

OW0102081392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0801 GMT 01 Feb 92

[Text] New York, Jan. 31 KYODO—Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Saturday categorically denied speculation he may dissolve the House of Representatives this summer to call a double election for both houses of the Diet. In a 30-minute session with reporters traveling with him, Miyazawa said he has "never contemplated that."

There has been persistent speculation among Japanese politicians the prime minister may dissolve the lower chamber to coincide with a triennial election for the House of Councillors. Half the 252 seats of the upper house are up for election around July.

Miyazawa told the reporters he would make his best effort to win Diet approval for a government-proposed bill which would allow for the dispatch overseas of Japanese troops for the first time since World War II. The United Nations peace cooperation bill, passed by the lower chamber last year, is still pending in the upper house.

Miyazawa met the reporters after attending the summit of 15 member states on the U.N. Security Council, held Friday in New York. The prime minister, discussing talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin earlier Friday, said "the time is approaching" for a solution to the territorial dispute over four Russian-held islands off Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido.

Control System Fault Delays Satellite Launch

OW0302020592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0148 GMT 03 Feb 92

[Text] Tanegashima, Kagoshima Pref., Feb. 3 KYODO—A rocket control systems malfunction forced postponement of the launching of Japan's first resource exploration satellite Monday, the National Space Development Agency said.

The Japan Earth Resources Satellite (JERSI 1), which uses synthetic aperture radar to monitor the earth's surface even through thick cloud cover, had been scheduled for a 10:50 A.M. launch at the Tanegashima space center.

But shortly after 8:00 A.M., the agency said it was postponing the launch until Thursday at the earliest, in order to search for the cause of the malfunction and remove fuel from the second stage of the Japanese-developed H-1 rocket.

The satellite, once launched, will transmit valuable data on weather patterns, fires, resources, and global warming.

The rocket control system relays information about the condition of the rocket during flight, and governs the angle of the engine via a computer.

The satellite was developed by the agency and the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI).

It measures 90 centimeters by 3.1 meters and weighs 1.4 tons.

Environment Proposals for Earth Summit Unveiled

OW0102081592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0755 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] Osaka, Feb. 1 KYODO—The No. 2 opposition party Komeito unveiled Saturday a proposal for environmental protection featuring a penalty tax on pollution. Komeito Chairman Koshiro Ishida said the 10-point proposal has been prepared for presentation at the United Nations-sponsored Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also known as the Earth Summit, in Brazil in June.

Ishida, detailing the proposal at a news conference, said the party's "Earth Charter" calls for the creation of an international taxation system designed to preserve the global environment. The system includes a penalty levy against acts of environmental destruction, he said.

Komeito was the first Japanese political party to propose the idea. It is also studied by the leadership of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party as part of an international contribution tax. The concept has also been informally reviewed by the Finance Ministry and the Environment Agency.

Komeito additionally proposed the establishment by the U.N. of an independent environmental preservation council endowed with funding sources. The party also calls for the creation of a fund for environmental preservation in developing nations and a system for disposal and recycling of pollutants.

North Korea

Diplomatic Relations Established With Moldova

SK0102000392 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 31 Jan 92

["Joint Communique on Establishing Diplomatic Relations Between the DPRK and Republic of Moldova"]

[Text] The DPRK Government and the Moldova Republic Government have agreed on establishing diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level to develop friendly and cooperative relations in all areas between the two countries based on the principle of independence, equality, reciprocity, and nonintervention and on exchanging diplomatic missions.

[Signed] Son Song-pil, DPRK ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Russian Federation, as authorized by the DPRK Government

[Signed] Ion Kondrat Chebuk, first deputy prime minister of the Republic of Moldova and permanent representative of the Moldova Republic to Moscow, as authorized by the Moldova Government

[Date] 30 January 1992, Moscow

Diplomatic Relations Established With Azerbaijan

SK0102001092 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 31 Jan 92

["Joint Communique on Establishing Diplomatic Relations Between the DPRK and the Republic of Azerbaijan"]

[Text] To develop friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries in all domains based on the principles of independence, equality, reciprocity, and non-interference in internal affairs, the DPRK Government and the Azerbaijan Republic Government have agreed to establish ambassador-level diplomatic relations and exchange diplomatic missions.

[Signed] Vice Foreign Minister Yi In-kyu, as authorized by the DPRK Government

[Signed] Vice Foreign Minister (Zanamov), as authorized by the Azerbaijan Republic Government

[Date] 30 January 1992, Baku

Envoy to Russia on Signing N-Safeguards Accord

SK0202123992 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2300 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Announcer-read report on news conference held by Son Song-pil, ambassador to the Russian Federation, with foreign reporters at the DPRK embassy in Moscow on 31 January]

[Text] A news conference was held on 31 January at our country's embassy in the Russian Federation regarding our country's signing of the nuclear safeguards accord. Russian reporters and foreign reporters residing in Moscow participated in the news conference.

Son Song-pil, our country's ambassador to the Russia Federation, spoke at the news conference. He said that the signing of the nuclear safeguards accord is a brilliant result achieved in the consistent and steady struggle process of our Republic's Government's efforts to fulfill this accord in a fair way in accordance with the mission and ideology of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. He also pointed out that this was achieved due to the understanding by the authorities of the United States and South Korea with regard to our principled demand.

He said that at a time when we signed the nuclear safeguards accord, it is inevitable to recollect why this issue has remained an unresolved issue for such a long time, and stated that the delay in signing the nuclear safeguards accord was wholly due to the unjust position of the authorities of the United States regarding this matter.

He said that in December 1985, our Republic joined the NPT to establish the requirements of the NPT, which would lead to the withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea, eliminate the U.S. nuclear threat toward us, and turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone so that the danger of nuclear war on the Korean peninsula could be prevented and the country's and nation's sovereignty could be realized. He also said that since joining the NPT, the nuclear threat from the United States has been aggravated and a tense situation has been created in which the danger of a nuclear war could break out at any time on the Korean peninsula. He pointed out that even so, we carried out active and sincere efforts to realize the fundamental mission and goal of the treaty, and sincerely executed the duty of the treaty.

He pointed out that the United States is ignoring the execution of their legal duty which is in accordance with the NPT, and rather than withdrawing their nuclear weapons from South Korea, they have been threatening us with their nuclear weapons and talking about our nonexistent nuclear development, putting unilateral pressure on us to accept nuclear inspection.

He continued to recollect our consistent demand that if we are to resolve the nuclear inspection issue fairly, U.S. nuclear weapons must be withdrawn from South Korea and their nuclear threat toward us must be first eliminated, and said that the South Korean authorities and the United States who could no longer ignore our just demand, agreed to our demand, and thus a positive environment and condition in concluding the nuclear safeguards accord was provided.

He emphasized that this is a deserved fruition realized through the independent line based on the chuche idea, and a brilliant victory of the consistent line of the Republic's Government which thinks and makes decisions by always putting our nation's interest in the forefront.

He said that due to the concluding of the Nuclear Safeguards Accord, and when we accept inspection, the dark truth of antirepublic commotions by those who were babbling as if we were developing nuclear weapons up till now will be completely revealed. He especially pointed out the unjust attitude of the Japanese authorities regarding this matter.

He gave statistics and actual facts regarding Japan's promotion of nuclear technology development and its rushing toward the road of becoming a great military power. He pointed out that Japan is raising doubts about our just position and measures. He also pointed out that we do not doubt that Japan is apprehensive over the fact that its shield to develop nuclear development might disappear due to the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.

He emphasized that we, who are neighbors of Japan, will absolutely not overlook Japan arming itself with nuclear weapons, and that Asia and the rest of the world will not tolerate this also.

He concluded the news conference by saying that our Republic's Government which is faithful to the NPT, will in the future ratify the safeguards accord as soon as possible, and according to corresponding procedures will justly receive nuclear inspection.

Afterwards, he answered questions raised by reporters.

Envoy to PRC Speaks on N-Safeguards Accord

SK0202095792 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0700 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Announcer-read report on news conference held by Ambassador to China Chu Chang-chun with foreign reporters at the DPRK Embassy in Beijing on 1 February]

[Text] A news conference was held on 1 February at our country's embassy in China regarding our signing of the nuclear safeguards accord. Reporters of the Chinese media, and reporters from various countries residing in China were on hand.

Chu Chang-chun, our country's ambassador to China, spoke at the news conference. He talked about the fact that our Republic signed the nuclear safeguards accord, and said that this is a brilliant result achieved in the consistent and steady struggle process of our Republic's Government's efforts to fulfill this accord in a fair way in accordance with the mission and ideology of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. He also said that this was achieved due to the understanding by the authorities of the United States and South Korea regarding our principled demand.

He pointed out that since our Republic's Government joined the NPT in December 1985, the nuclear threat from the United States has been aggravated and a tense situation has been created in which the danger of a nuclear war could break out at any time on the Korean peninsula. He stated that even then, we sincerely fulfilled our duty of the treaty, and under the principle of international justness and equality to realize the fundamental mission and goal of the treaty, we put forth various proposals for the withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons from South Korea and to achieve denuclearization on the Korean peninsula. He continued to point out that to realize these proposals, we carried out all kinds of sincere efforts and put forth progressive measures to conclude the safeguards accord.

He said that contrary to our intentions and efforts to sincerely fulfill the treaty, the United States ignored the execution of their legal duty which is in accordance with the NPT. He also stated that rather than withdrawing their nuclear weapons from South Korea, they threatened us with their nuclear weapons, and babbled about our nonexistent nuclear development, putting unilateral pressure on us to accept nuclear inspection.

He said that we consistently demanded that if the nuclear inspection issue is to be resolved fairly in our country, U.S. nuclear weapons must be withdrawn from South Korea and their nuclear threat toward us must be first eliminated. He also pointed out that the South Korean authorities and the United States who could no longer ignore our principled and just demand, agreed to our demand, and thus a positive environment and condition in concluding the nuclear safeguards accord was provided.

He emphasized that this is wholly due to the fruition of the steady efforts to realize this through the independent line put forth by our Republic's Government which is based on the chuche idea, and that this is a brilliant victory of the consistent line of our Republic's government which thinks and makes decisions by always putting our nation's interest at the forefront.

He said that the reason the concluding of the nuclear safeguards accord was delayed was wholly due to the United States, and emphasized that it is becoming all the more clear at a time when the nuclear issue is being resolved that the issue of concluding the nuclear safeguards accord cannot by any means be resolved through a military threat or unilateral pressure.

He said that up until now, many countries including the United States and Japan have been talking about our nonexistent nuclear development and are carrying out a commotion of schemes and lies, and he emphasized the fact that Japan is babbling about the nuclear inspection issue. He continued to say that if we receive nuclear inspection, it will be clearly revealed that the schemes and maneuvers by some countries including the United States and Japan regarding rumors of us developing nuclear weapons are a fictitious commotion, and their true scheming aspects will be once again exposed to the world.

He emphasized that as in the past we will in the future by no means forgive acts that defile our sovereignty and national dignity. He talked about the fact that Japan is accelerating nuclear development and is maneuvering to achieve great military power, and said that this must be suspended at once.

He expressed the hope that the media of various countries will distinguish schemes and fictitious instigation of some countries, and support our consistent peace-loving policy and just demand.

He also answered questions raised by reporters.

Envoy to Pakistan on Accepting N-Inspection

BK0302014792 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 2 Feb 92 p 5

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 1—The Ambassador of North Korea, Choe Su-il, said here Saturday that his government signed NPT [Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty] on Jan 30 and will accept nuclear inspection of North Korea's nuclear facilities by the international inspection group as quickly as possible.

Addresssing a press conference, he said the inspection will make clear everything as far as rumours of North Korea developing nuclear weapons are concerned.

He said since last year the U.S. and Western media had been busy trying to convince the people of the rumours about the pictures which they said they had photographed through satellites of North Korean moves for developing nuclear weapons.

The Ambassador said the international nuclear inspection will make it clear that North Korea has no will and no capacity to develop any nuclear weapon. He said after the inspection, the people of the world will realise that the U.S. and Western media had been doing nothing but indulging in a campaign of cheating them. He said with the signing of the NPT by his government, the nuclear issue in Korean peninsula had been solved.

He said his country had joined NPT in 1985 while the U.S. was posing nuclear threat with its 1000 nuclear warheads deployed in South Korea and Team Spirit military joint exercise every year which could ignite a dangerous nuclear war in Korean peninsula. Since then, he said, his country had been making continuous efforts to make the U.S. withdraw nuclear weapons from the Korean peninsula and convert it into a zone of peace. He said the U.S. had started deploying its nuclear weapons in South Korean in 1950.

The Ambassador said the U.S. had recently announced its decision to withdraw all its nuclear weapons from South Korea. Simultaneously South Korean authorities announced that they had no nuclear weapons on their territory. Further, the U.S. and South Korea had announced cancellation of the Team Spirit military exercises and thereby fulfilled the demands of North Korea.

He said South Korea had finally responded positively to adopt "the declaration of the denuclearisation of Korean peninsula."

Replying to a question about the date of inspection of North Korea's nuclear facilities, the Ambassador said the date would be fixed in consultation with the International Atomic Energy Commission. It will be decided soon, he said.

Commentary Views Signing of N-Safeguards Accord

SK0102151092 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Commentary by station commentator Chong Pong-kil: "Result of Steady Efforts To Achieve Denuclearization"]

[Text] As was already reported, on 30 January in Austria, the DPRK delegation along with the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] signed the safeguards accord which is in conformity with the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT].

The signing of the safeguards accord is a brilliant result achieved in the consistent and steady struggle process of our Republic's efforts to fulfill this accord in a fair way in accordance with the mission and ideology of the NPT. It also represents an understanding by the authorities of United States and South Korea with regard to our principle demand.

Preventing the danger of a nuclear war and guaranteeing world peace and security are the basic ideology and mission put forth by the NPT. Therefore, in December 1985, our Republic joined the NPT to establish the requirements of the NPT, which would lead to the withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea, and turn the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone so that the danger of nuclear war on the Korean peninsula could be prevented and the country's and nation's sovereignty could be realized.

Since joining the NPT, according to the duty of the treaty, we put forth various proposals on the withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea and to achieve denuclearization on the Korean peninsula, and carried out all kinds of sincere efforts to realize them.

On many occasions, we carried out consultations with the managers of the Board of Directors of the IAEA to conclude the safeguards accord, and took progressive measures such as in July 1991 when we finished arranging the draft of the accord's document.

However, contrary to our intentions and efforts, the U.S. imperialists are ignoring the execution of their legal duty which is in accordance with the NPT. Rather than withdrawing their nuclear weapons from South Korea, they are continuing to bring nuclear weapons into South Korea and have threatened us with their nuclear weapons. Also, they are babbling about our nonexistent nuclear development, putting unilateral pressure on us to accept nuclear inspection.

From the mid-1950's, the U.S. imperialists started to bring in their nuclear weapons into South Korea on a large-scale. Also, since we joined the treaty, many nuclear weapons were dispatched to the front. Therefore, South Korea was turned into the greatest Far East nuclear advanced base of the U.S. imperialists and a nuclear war explosive warehouse where various kinds of some 1,000 nuclear weapons are filled to capacity.

Also every year since 1973, by mobilizing some 200,000 forces strong to oppose us, the U.S. imperialists held the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise, which is a nuclear test war and preliminary war throughout South Korea, and openly threatened and intimidated us with nuclear weapons.

Due to the criminal maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists, a strained situation in which a nuclear war could break out at any time in our country has been created. Therefore, eliminating the nuclear threat was presented as a life and death issue related to our nation's existence.

Nevertheless, the U.S. imperialists talked about our nuclear development and forced us to accept nuclear inspection. This kind of act by the U.S. imperialists is brazen thievery likened to a thief calling another thief. This does not make sense to us who regard sovereignty as more precious than one's life.

We called for equality and fairness, and consistently demanded that if the issue of nuclear inspection is to be resolved fairly in our country, U.S. nuclear weapons must be withdrawn from South Korea and U.S. imperialists' nuclear threat toward us must be eliminated first.

Our principled and just demand received active support from the peace-loving people of the world, and the South Korean ruling bunch who could no longer ignore world opinion, announced the absence of nuclear weapons and then agreed to the Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. It also announced with the United States that the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise would be suspended for this year.

With regard to the nuclear inspection issue, the United States also accepted our demand to hold DPRK-U.S. talks and responded to the high-level talks.

Therefore, a basic barrier was eliminated in the road to conclude our nuclear safeguards accord, and a positive environment and condition in signing the accord was created.

After the nuclear safeguards accord is concluded and we accept inspection, the commotion of lies and the dark truth of antirepublic campaigns by U.S. imperialists and some countries which are babbling about nuclear development and which are trying to conspire against us will be completely revealed, and the rascals will receive greater humiliation in the presence of the world.

We will in the future by no means tolerate acts that interfere in our internal affairs and defile our nation's dignity. The U.S. imperialists must throw away their anachronistic ambition to invade the North, and withdraw all of their aggressive arms including aggressive forces from South Korea immediately which is in accord with the demand of our people and the world's peace-loving people.

Daily on Japan's 'Interference' in Nuclear Issue

SK0302051692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0434 GMT 3 Feb 92

["Words and Deeds That Cause Alarm"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 3 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comments on the obtrusive interference of the Japanese Government authorities in the question of nuclear inspection of the DPRK.

According to a report, the Japanese Government authorities claim that though the DPRK signed the nuclear safeguards accord, the question still remains "unsolved" and it "may postpone the effectuation of the accord" and that "unconditonal acceptance" of nuclear inspection must be strongly demanded.

They used the question as a means of pressure by bringing it forward again at the talks for the normalisation of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations.

The news analyst says:

At a time when the world people rejoice over the positive developments on the Korean peninsula fraught with the greatest danger of nuclear war in the globe, only the Japanese Government hinders them, casting doubts on our sincere efforts. This means that they have an axe to grind.

Japan regards it as an excuse for justifying her own nuclear arming.

This is proven by her plan now promoted to secure one hundred tons of plutonium by the early 2000s.

The suspicion about Japan is growing because only she is sharply increasing military spendings against the trend of the times and trying to dispatch Japanese forces overseas. Moreover, the Japanese Government refuses to honestly reflect on the blood-stained past of Japan and is describing the draft of the Korean women as "comfort girls for the army" and the aggression and colonial domination in Korea and Asia as justifiable and intending to "apologize" for it in empty words, not compensating for it.

The Japanese Government reveals its wild ambition to behave as a "nuclear power" and "political power" when it tries to delete the provision of the U.N. charter defining Japan as a "hostile country" and openly seeks a seat of a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council.

Japan should stop such an unreasonable act as using the fiction of "DPRK's nuclear development" for justifying her nuclear armament.

Cases of U.S. Air Reconnaissance Reported

SK0102054692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0456 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] Pyongyang February 1 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists Thursday [30 January] committed an aerial espionage on targets in the inland area of the northern half of Korea with U-2 high-altitude strategic reconnaissance planes, according to military sources.

Aerial espionage by the U-2 numbered more than 50 cases in January alone.

On the same day, the U.S. imperialists let fly five RV-1 Army tactical reconnaissance planes for an intensive aerial espionage on the frontline area of the North side.

Aerial espionage by this reconnaissance plane numbered over 100 in January.

Earlier, on January 29, the U.S. imperialists brought an E-3A early warning plane from Kadena Base in Okinawa, Japan and let it fly above the Military Demarcation Line for all-round electronic reconnaissance on targets in the strategic depths of the northern half of Korea.

That day, an EH-60 helicopter flew above the west coastal line and frontline areas of the North for an electronic espionage.

The cases of aerial espionage committed by the U.S. imperialists against the northern half of Korea by mobilizing various types of strategic and tactical reconnaissance planes in January this year exceeded 250, some 70 cases more than in the same period last year.

U.S. Air Force, Navy Hold Maneuvers 30, 31 Jan

SK0202085492 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0810 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Text] Pyongyang February 2 (KCNA)—The U.S. Pacific Airforce and Navy Commands on January 30 and 31 committed large-scale joint aerial war exercises with the Korean peninsula as a theatre of operations, according to military sources.

Involved there were formations of Pacific-based fighter-bombers, assault planes, AWACS [airborne warning and control system] plane and more than 400 warplanes of different types belonging to the U.S. Airforce stationed in South Korea and the puppet Airforce.

On January 30, the U.S. imperialists let a Pacific-based KC-135 tanker plane fly above South Korea in a war exercise of mid-air refueling of some 30 fighter-bombers which were mobilized in a war gamble.

In a separate action, the South Korean puppets staged a ground and aerial war exercise near the Demilitarized Zone [DMZ] on the Military Demarcation Line [MDL].

The puppets on January 31 fired more than 250 shells and about 1,000 bullets into an area adjacent to the DMZ of the MDL.

Earlier, on January 30, mechanized infantry units of the puppet army staged a ground attack exercise aimed at an all-out attack on the North side with the support of tanks, artillery pieces, armored cars and scores of fighter-bombers and assault planes.

The number of fighter-bombers, assault planes, control planes, AWACS plane, reconnaissance planes, tanker planes and helicopters involved in the aerial war games against the northern half of Korea in the sky above South Korea on January 30 and 31 totaled more than 1,100.

The warplanes mobilized in aerial war exercises which were staged in the sky above South Korea in January under various names, entering this year, numbered over 16,000.

U.S. Urged To Withdraw Troops From South

SK0102103592 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1012 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] Pyongyang February 1 (KCNA)—RisCassi, commander of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces in South Korea, said the U.S. forces would remain in South Korea as long as South Koreans "want" it, HANGUK ILBO reported on January 29. And Powell, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, struck a similar tone at a press conference in Washington on January 30.

This is, indeed, a sheer trash which could be let out only by those who leave no stone unturned in a bid to attain their aggressive design.

The North and the South of Korea have agreed to nonaggression and denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, and the sentiments of struggle for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country are rising to the highest tide ever among the 70 million fellow countrymen.

Such developments on the Korean peninsula leave no ground for the United States to remain in South Korea.

Nevertheless, U.S. warmaniacs are trying hard to find an excuse for the U.S. forces' permanent occupation of South Korea with a view to keeping hold on it as a colony and military base and, with it as a foothold, containing with strength our Republic which is advancing along the road of socialism and, furthermore, gaining supremacy in the Asia-Pacific region.

This is, however, a daydream of those who are still failing to wake from the outmoded way of thinking of the cold war era.

The United States must rectify its aggressive Korea policy and pull its forces out of South Korea.

Daily Calls South's Defense 'Aggressive Design'

SK0102055192 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0512 GMT 1 Feb 92

["War Servant's Ballad of 'Self-Reliance in Defence'"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 1 (KCNA)—No Tae-u, after being briefed on this year's "main programme of the Defence Ministry" recently, said "utmost efforts should be made to obtain self-reliance in defence" and "relations of security and cooperation with the United States be developed still further." This comes under fire in NODONG SINMUN today.

"Self-reliance" cried for by the South Korean chief executive does not become the constitution of a colonial puppet. It reminds us of a swine coveting pearls, the analyst says, and continues:

Even before the ink on the agreement between the North and the South was dry, No Tae-u showed up at a puppet army position in the central sector of the front where he said "the army should keep itself in full combat readiness, not minding the start of reconciliation and cooperation by the North and the South". And the puppets are, in actuality, continuing frantic military manoeuvres with the U.S. imperialist aggression forces and spurring on arms buildup.

No's ballad of "self-reliance in defence" is nothing but a criminal slogan for increasing the military power and realising the aggressive design against the North, hand in glove with the U.S. imperialists.

His call for "relations of security and cooperation" with the United States implies that he will continue to play the role of a shock brigade of the United States for the establishment of a "new world order".

The South Korean authorities must refrain from such despicable double-faced game as increasing the military power and seeking to invade the North in league with outside forces after signing an agreement promising nonaggression with the North. If the South Korean rulers trample upon the historical agreement and continue seeking confrontation and war, they will face denunciation by the people at home and abroad.

KCNA Reviews Pyongyang Press for 1 Feb

SK0102063992 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0518 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang February 1 (KCNA)—Papers here today report that Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, exchanged New Year's cards with foreign party and state leaders and received new year's cards from foreign countries.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il exchanged New Year's cards with foreign party and state leaders and received congratulatory messages and letters from foreign countries, says the press.

Carried in the press are accounts of an opening ceremony of the "Library of the Dear Leader Kim Chong-il" held in the Asian Regional Institute of the Chuche Idea on the occasion of his birthday and a function for naming the sixth year graduating class of the Tarata Primary School No. 1039 in Lima after Kim Chong-il.

NODONG SINMUN rounds up voices of people in South Korea and the world highly praising Comrade Kim Chong-il as a guiding sun and a great leader.

Papers inform the readers that kimjongilia was introduced by foreign press and many letters and photos showing the flower in beautiful bloom came from different parts of the country and foreign countries.

NODONG SINMUN editorially calls for bringing about a new revolutionary upsurge in the socialist construction in the revolutionary spirit of Mt. Paektu which was displayed during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

The Workers' Party of Korea Publishing House published the book "*Among the People*" No. 49, the paper says.

Seen in the press are news that the general secretary of the C.C., the Communist Party of Vietnam met with the DPRK foreign minister and joint communiques on establishing diplomatic relations between the DPRK and republics of Azerbaijan and Moldova.

Econews of the press includes a report that January plans have been fulfilled by many factories and enterprises in various sectors of the national economy.

NODONG SINMUN comes out with an article entitled "Superiority of Our People's Ideological Life Based on the Chuche Idea".

Papers inform the readers that the sixth intergovernmental full-dress talks for the normalization of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations is on, the DPRK Government delegation hosted a party for the Japanese Government delegation and a spokesman of the DPRK delegation held a press conference in connection with the signing of nuclear safeguards accord according to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty between the DPRK Government and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

A professor of South Korea called for intensifying anti-Japanese education and a member of parliament demanded compensation for the victims of the volunteer corps, according to the press.

NODONG SINMUN runs a commentary denouncing No Tae-u's clamour about "self-reliance in defence".

MINJU CHOSON in a commentary says that the South Korean authorities should give up the plot for rice import at once.

NODONG SINMUN serializes the anti-American book published in South Korea under the headline "Independence Declaration of 40 Million People for Removal of U.S. Military Bases—Only When You Go Home Can We Survive."

In a semi-monthly review of the South Korean situation, the paper says the struggle denouncing the South Korean ruling group's criminal acts against independence, democracy and reunification was waged vigorously.

Published in the paper is a statement of the spokesman of the DPRK Foreign Ministry welcoming the ceasefire in El Salvador and words of Koreans and foreigners denouncing Japan's nuclear armament.

It is reported in papers that the heads of state and government of the ASEAN countries called for establishing a zone of peace, freedom and neutrality in Southeast Asia, the third-stage meeting of the Mideast Peace conference was held, the premier of the State Council of China visited Switzerland, the Iranian president expressed solidarity with Libya and the birth anniversary of Jose Marti was celebrated in Cuba.

NODONG SINMUN introduces achievements of Chinese industrial workers.

The paper runs an article analysing the Afghan problem which is in the process of peaceful settlement and an article entitled "Is U.S. 'Welfare' Society?"

KCNA Reviews NODONG SINMUN for 3 Feb

SK0302052092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0440 GMT 3 Feb 92

[NODONG SINMUN review]

[Text] Pyongyang February 3 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN here today reports that the New Year address of the great leader President Kim Il-song was reported in various countries.

Appearing in the paper is a message to him from David Baz, chairman of the National Socialist Party of Syria in Lebanon, supporting the New Year address.

President Kim Il-song visited Popyong after 66 years and looked back with deep emotions upon the 1,000-ri journey for national liberation he covered (February 1925), according to NODONG SINMUN.

The paper reports that works of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il were deeply studied in different countries and a brief history of his revolutionary activities was carried by a Burundi paper.

Carried in the paper is news that a Bangladeshi publication carried articles introducing the old home of Comrade Kim Chong-il in Mt. Paektu secret camp and crewmen of the Panamanian-flagged ship Toyo No. 5 held a discussion on his virtues on the occasion of his 50th birthday.

The paper rounds up voices of Indian public figures and South Korean people deeply revering Comrade Kim Chong-il.

Foreign publications introduced kimjongilia, says the paper.

Carried in the paper is a message of greetings sent by the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea to the 8th congress of the Brazilian Communist Party.

Econews of the paper includes reports about innovations being effected in coal production and brisk preparations for farming.

Given in the paper is an account of the inaugural meeting of the Jamaica-Korea Friendship Association held in Kingston.

It is reported in the paper that the president of Mozambique met the Korean ambassador to his country and the honorary chairman of the Cilreco [International Liaison Committee for Reunification and Peace in Korea] and foreign party leaders met a delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea in Paris.

Foreign publication reported about the DPRK's signing the nuclear safeguards accord, public organisations of Namibia issued a joint statement supporting the agreement adopted between the North and the South of Korea, and the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets ceaselessly staged provocative war exercises, says the paper.

Carried in the paper are an article headlined "'National Security Law' That Snags Unity of the Nation Should be Scrapped" and the fifth part of an anti-American book published in South Korea under the title "*Independence Declaration of 40 million Koreans for the Expulsion of U.S. Military Bases—Only When You Go, Can We Survive*".

The paper in a commentary urges Japan to refrain from such a sinister act as inventing non-existent "DPRK's nuclear development" fiction and using it to justify her nuclear arming.

The president of the Presidential Council of Yemen called for strengthening correlations among Arab countries, functions took place in China on the lunar new year's day and the prime minister of Malaysia criticized the unreasonable stand of the United States on the plan to establish Southeast Asian economic committee, says the paper.

South Korea

Reports, Editorials on DPRK Nuclear Accords

DPRK Treaty Official Interviewed

SK3101145092 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 31 Jan 92 p 3

[Interview with Chang Mun-son, director of the Treaties Bureau of the North Korean Foreign Ministry, by Vienna-based correspondent Kang Pyong-tae held in Vienna on 30 January—first two paragraphs are reporter's note]

[Text] On 30 January, Chang Mun-son, director of the treaties bureau of the North Korean Foreign Ministry held a news conference after North Korea signed the Nuclear Safeguards Accord of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. In the conference, he stressed that "time is necessary for the domestic ratification procedure." Thus, he strongly suggested North Korea's intention of linking the accord's speed of implementation with the promotion of the North's relations with the United States.

The following are the questions and answers.

[Kang Pyong-Tae] Does the North Korean side still have any demand in connection with the acceptance of nuclear inspection?

[Chang Mun-son] North Korea's demands are the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from the Korean peninsula; the removal of the nuclear threat against the North; the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and the realization of North Korean-U.S. negotiations. I may say that these four issues have been resolved in principle.

The United States did not directly notify us whether U.S. nuclear weapons were withdrawn from South Korea or not, however. Thus, the withdrawal has not been confirmed. Nevertheless, since expression was made even indirectly, I may say that all demands have been basically resolved.

[Kang] Concerning the accord's ratification and effectuation, will you explain why the ratification and follow-up procedure are impossible within February?

[Chang] Ratification of a treaty requires due time for review and verification by relevant organizations according to domestic laws and procedures.

In general, ratification of an international treaty requires six months, and sometimes, more than one year. I believe that the ratification will proceed more promptly than this, however.

[Kang] Can you give us a more detailed schedule and tell us whether the ratification will be made within this year or not?

[Chang] The safeguards accord requires review and deliberation by an authoritative organization representing the people's will.

If necessary, the Supreme People's Assembly, the highest legislative organization, as well as its Standing Committee, and the Central People's Committee may review this accord.

[Kang] Can you openly tell us about what type of nuclear facilities North Korea has at present?

[Chang] The opening of nuclear facilities should be carried out according to procedure and method provided by the safeguards accord.

[Kang] What type of facilities are there in Yongbyon? Will these facilities be included in the details of the submitted report?

[Chang] There are no nuclear materials in North Korea that could cause people's concern. This will become clear when the inspection begins.

[Kang] To which is precedence given, North-South mutual inspection or the IAEA's nuclear inspection?

[Chang] The issue of denuclearization of the Korean peninsula should be discussed between the North and South, and the IAEA's inspection will be implemented according to its accord. Therefore, precedence cannot be decided upon. Sincere negotiations will be held in the future between the North and South.

Basic Obstacles 'Eliminated'

SK0102082592 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 1 Feb 92 p 2

[XINHUA and YONHAP reports from Pyongyang]

[Text] On 31 January, a spokesman for the North Korean Foreign Ministry said that it will promptly take steps to ratify the Nuclear Safeguards Accord with the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA].

He also said that North Korea will open its nuclear facilities to IAEA inspectors in accordance with the procedures determined by the IAEA and North Korea.

He said, however: The smooth fulfillment of the international agreement is not possible when external pressures exist and when others interfere in internal affairs.

The spokesman said that, because a joint denuclerization declaration of the Korean peninsula was adopted and because the United States and South Korea announced that they would not conduct the Team Spirit exercise this year, basic obstacles were eliminated to allow Pyongyang sign the Nuclear Safeguards Accord.

DPRK Asked To Publicize Timetable

SK0202052292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0448 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 2 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea will request North Korea to make public the timetable regarding the ratification and effectuation of the nuclear safeguards accord, a government official said Saturday.

He said that South Korea would propose to the North that the pilot inspections of Yongbyon nuclear facilities in North Korea and the Kunsan U.S. Air Base in the South be conducted by the end of February at the latest as a way of confidence-building measures.

"North Korea has not announced its clear position on the ratification and effectuation of the nuclear safeguards accord it signed Thursday [30 January] with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)," the official said, declining to give his name.

The official stressed that the government would work out concrete countermeasures after confirming Pyongyang's official position on the ratification and effectuation of the nuclear safeguards pact at Friday's [31 January] Panmunjom contact aimed for the creation of three inter-Korean subcommittees.

"If the issue is not solved before the inter-Korean high-level talks in Pyongyang starting Feb. 18, it will exercise a bad influence on ameliorating relations between the two Koreas," he said.

He said that the government could not help taking diplomatic steps of calling for the adoption of a resolution against North Korea in cooperation with the United States and Japan at the IAEA general meeting scheduled on Feb. 25 in case Pyongyang delays its ratification and effectuation of safeguards agreement.

"The South's basic position is that both Koreas should produce an agreement on pilot inspections before the Pyongyang high-level talks," the official said, adding "if we failed to narrow views on them at the coming Panmunjom meeting, separate working-level contacts will be pursued on end."

Editorial Urges Pilot Inspections

SK0302002492 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 31 Jan 92 p 3

[Editorial: "'Pilot Inspection' First Is a Barometer of Trust"]

[Text] North Korea signed a nuclear safeguards accord six years after it joined the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT]. The obligation, which should have been fulfilled within 18 months of joining the treaty, was implemented after such a long period of time. This is indeed a long delay.

We welcome North Korea's step, although it is taken belatedly after a long time, because it opens the first door for nuclear inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] to resolve North Korea's nuclear problem. The IAEA is now able to formulate specific inspection plans to learn the real situation of North Korea's nuclear facilities. If abandonment of North Korea's intention to develop nuclear weapons is confirmed as a result of the inspection, North Korea will have more opportunities to expand its international relations. Moreover, one can expect a "green light" for improving North-South relations. Accordingly, the Korean peninsula would be stabilized with a peace system.

North Korea's signing of the nuclear safeguards accord is merely a systematic start for resolving North Korea's nuclear issue, however. There are still some rugged roads in the course of accomplishing the final goal of a complete solution of North Korea's nuclear problem. The first rugged road is an attempt to delay. Even if the nuclear safeguards accord which North Korea has signed is ratified and becomes effective immediately, North Korea will still have 120 days of legal leeway to participate in the IAEA's nuclear inspection. If North Korea delays ratification of the accord and makes a first false report on its nuclear materials and nuclear facilities, an even longer delay would occur. Therefore, North Korea's follow-up actions are subject to the people's continuous attention. North Korea's genuine intention will become clear according to how promptly North Korea will take a series of follow-up actions from ratifying and effecting the nuclear safeguards accord and signing of supplementary agreements to implementating the inspection. The second rugged road is sincerity of attitude in accepting the inspection. This sincerity means submitting a first true report on nuclear materials and nuclear facilities and guaranteeing complete inspection activities to IAEA inspectors.

North Korea has reportedly promised to rapidly and sincerely implement its follow-up actions. Such a promise is not sufficient, however. The question is practice and actual proof. An important precondition for practice and actual proof is trust. In the event that North Korea recovers trust in resolving the nuclear issue, it also can recover trust in international society even in other fields. Accordingly, North Korea will be able to solve problems in its relations with the United States and Japan.

We urge North Korea once again to accept the proposal for "pilot inspection" on civilian and military facilities both in the North and the South, which was put forward as an important measure for building trust. The pilot inspection of nuclear facilities in North and South Korea is the most effective way for removing the suspicion of a delay, which is the first rugged road after North Korea's signing of the nuclear safeguards accord, and of sincerity in attitude for acceptance of inspection, which is the second rugged road. This method will also add significance to the joint declaration on denuclearization of the Korean peninsula adopted between the North and the South.

The joint declaration on denuclearization of the Korean peninsula prescribes formation of a joint nuclear control committee after it enters into force to facilitate mutual inspection on nuclear facilities both in North and South Korea. Seeing the rough procedures, we feel that it will take a long time to form a joint nuclear control committee and to reach an agreement on the targets of inspection. Therefore, the pilot inspection, which could be completed once or twice, has emerged as a matter of greatest interest that can supplement the IAEA's "time vulnerability" and joint nuclear control committee.

We again maintain that mutual pilot nuclear inspection should be conducted before the effectuation of the joint declaration on denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and the North-South agreement so that trust can be built.

Editorial Urges Joint Committee

SK0302102992 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 31 Jan 92 p 2

[Editorial: "Establishing a Joint Committee for Controlling Nuclear Issues Should Be Done in a Hurry, and the South Side Should Not Insist on Pilot Inspections"]

[Text] With North Korea signing the nuclear safeguards accord with the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] on 30 January, North Korea is expected to place its nuclear materials and nuclear facilities under inspection by this international agency in the near future. Given the comments by the North Korean delegation that arrived in Vienna, Austria, for the signing and given the statement released on 7 January by North Korea's Foreign Ministry spokesman, it is clear that North Korea will place its nuclear facilities under international inspection beginning in June, after going through such necessary procedures as ratification of the accord and putting it into effect, following the signing of a supplementary treaty. North Korea can be said to have come under effective control of the international agency after twists and turns, for the purpose of fulfilling its obligations as a signatory to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Nonetheless, this does not mean that the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula or controversy over it have come to an end. The remaining issue involves the mutual inspection to be conducted according to the joint declaration on denuclearizing the Korean peninsula signed by the North and South. Couched in the mutual inspection, though it is an institutionalized means necessary to verify the denuclearization, is the intense mutual distrust and mutual vigilance over the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula. North Korea's primary objective behind its verification of the withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons from the South is, it would seem, to deny the South side any possibility of reintroducing nuclear weapons. South Korea and the United States, finding the limited inspection of the nuclear materials and facilities reported by North Korea inadequate, seem to consider it necessary to verify the absence of nuclear facilities in the North with their own eyes. If the South and North are to conduct mutual inspection, however, they need to set up a joint committee for controlling nuclear weapons; only after going through the difficult process of hammering out the necessary procedures and ways of conducting the inspections can they expect to agree on which nuclear facilities to place under inspection. In anticipation of such a difficulty, the South side broached the idea of conducting pilot inspections at the strong request of the United States.

As has already been reported, at the fifth round of South-North high-level talks held in mid-December last year, the South side proposed to the North that the South conduct pilot inspections in Sunchon airport and the nuclear facilities in Yongbyon and that the North conduct pilot inspection at the U.S. Air Force base in Kunsan in the South on condition that the South and North agree on dismantling the nuclear fuel reprocessing facilities. At the second Panmunjom contact between the delegates to the high-level talks, the South side proposed that the two sides start the pilot inspection by the end of February. The North side is reported to have turned down the proposal, however, arguing that the proposal can be discussed at the joint committee for controlling nuclear issues to be set up after the joint declaration on denuclearizing the Korean peninsula becomes effective. Although the two sides are expected to discuss it at the third contact scheduled for 7 February, it is hard to hope for the two sides to reach an agreement.

Seeing no end to the controversy over the nuclear issue even after the two sides agreed on denuclearizing the Korean peninsula, we have already called on them to set up a joint committee for controlling the nuclear issues at an early date. Since there is no possibility of seeing an end to the nuclear controversy simply because North Korea signed the nuclear safeguards accord, setting up the joint committee to control the nuclear issues and running it in parallel with the joint declaration on denuclearization put into effect is one way to keep from wasting national strength.

Instead, the government hoped to make a careful judgment in a way that makes the proposal for pilot inspection avoid putting up new obstacles to advancement in South-North relations. Before insisting on pilot inspections and a South-North summit meeting, the government should make every effort to set up subcommittees as agreed upon in the South-North Agreement and to hammer out ways to run them. Although it is undeniable that the nuclear issue is so sensitive that it will have weighty influence on South-North relations, it must be resolved in conjunction with a substantive implementation of the South-North agreement.

It is hard for the South and North to ignore the United States' and Japan's demands and concern regarding the nuclear issue in the course of holding regular consultations, such as the recent high-level contact and the talks over the establishment of diplomatic relations. Demands and concerns of these countries should be taken into consideration within the framework of advancing relations between the South and North. Thus, the government should not allow itself to be driven by the desire to settle the issue at an early date and be in a hurry to conduct mutual inspections of military and civilian nuclear facilities, a very sensitive issue, without careful preparations. Doing so runs the risk of deepening the mistrust between the South and North. Instead, for this reason alone, if for no other, the South and North should be in a hurry to set up a joint committee for controlling nuclear issues.

Unification Minister Outlines Tasks for 1992

SK0102090492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0531 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 1 (YONHAP)—South Korea will seek to open an inter-Korean information data exchange center in the truce village of Panmunjom to promote mutual understanding with North Korea, Unification Minister Choe Ho-chung said Saturday in a written report presented to President No Tae-u outlining the major tasks for this year.

Choe, who is also deputy prime minister, said in the report that his ministry will gradually expand the scope of data on North Korea that is available to the public.

The Unification Board will set up a public forum for people to air their opinions on unification issues. Tentatively called the national unification forum, it will also hold open unification debates, according to Choe's report.

Regarding establishment of an inter-Korean liaison office, stipulated in the inter-Korean reconciliation agreement signed last year, Choe said efforts would be made to open the office by May 19 after reaching agreement with the North Korean side during the seventh high-level inter-Korean meeting, set for mid-February in Pyongyang.

The reconciliation and non-aggression agreement reached at the sixth inter-Korean prime ministers' meeting calls for the establishment of joint action committees in each related field.

On the political situation in North Korea, the report said North Korea was apparently at full work on transferring power from Kim Il-song to his son, Chong-il, possibly around his 50th birthday on Feb. 16 or April 15, the 80th birthday of his father.

Public Hearings on Korean Unification Planned

SK0302021592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0159 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 3 (YONHAP)—The government, because of growing public concern about Korean unification, is to institutionalize a way to sample public opinion so that it can be reflected in South Korea's policies on North Korea and unification of the Korean peninsula.

One way under review is to hold regular public hearings so that people can present their opinions on all unification-related matters such as inter-Korean exchanges, methods of unification, the U.S. military presence in the South and nuclear weapons, a government official said Monday.

So far, opinion polls were the only way the government gauged public views with regard to unification policies.

"Now that inter-Korean relations have improved and public concern is rising about unification, the government believes the time has come to positively sample public opinion," he said.

The public hearings could be run by a private organization at places and on themes provided by the government, he suggested.

The first of the forums will take place in Seoul some time in the first half of the year, and more will be held in Seoul and the provinces later on a gradual basis.

The forums will be open to anyone interested in unification and they will be allowed to debate even sensitive inter-Korean matters, the official added.

Daewoo's Kim U-chung Interviewed on North

SK0202070092 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 27 Jan 92 p 2

[Interview with Kim U-chung, chairman of the Daewoo Business Group, by reporter Wang Sang-han in Seoul's Hilton Hotel—date not given]

[Text] [Wang Sang-han] How did you enter North Korea?

[Kim U-chung] I left Beijing by train and completed my entry procedure at Dandong, China. I took a rest in Sinuiju for approximately an hour and then headed for Pyongyang. Our entire entourage was greatly moved when it was crossing the Yalu River. It was my idea to go by train instead of by plane. I went to North Korea by train because I thought I may not have another opportunity to go there by train.

[Wang] What did you do in North Korea?

[Kim] I visited the Sariwon Textile Plant; Sungni Automobile Plant in Tokchon, South Pyongan Province; Kusong Machine Tool Plant, North Pyongan Province; Unpa Mine, Hwanghae Province; Wonsan Fisheries Product Processing Plant; and various other major industrial facilities in North Korea. Also, chiefs of the Commission of Electronics and Automation Industry, the Commission of Light Industry, the Ministry of Mining Industry, the Commission of Electric Industry, and other North Korean economic ministries or commissions came to a meeting to brief me on the status of the North Korean economy and briefed me in "surprising" detail.

I was told: "We know that capitalists are exploiting workers. Ordinary workers must be working very hard, given that their chairman is working so hard." We stayed at Hungbugak, a guest house only for foreign heads of state. In this way, we were given a warm reception. I could not meet with Secretary Kim Chong-il, because he was on a business trip.

[Wang] What did you and President Kim Il-song discuss?

[Kim] President Kim Il-song expressed interest in the EC integration, the North American Free Trade Agreement, and other global economic developments. So, the dialogue consisted of his questions on those issues and my explanations. He knew almost everything about me, including my book *The World Is Big, and There Are Many Things To Do.*

He called me "Mr. Kim U-chung." He warmly welcomed us, unreservedly and kindly, saying: "You look amiable. Please come visit North Korea as often as possible as if it were your own home." President Kim asked me in a very friendly manner how President No Tae-u was. He had a positive attitude on North Korea's relations with the United States. As I repeatedly said, we did not talk about politics.

Some media reported that I served as the government's messenger and returned home carrying a letter from President Kim Il-song to President No Tae-u. This is incorrect. I hope that the media, realizing that promoting trust is a precondition for reunification, will report on North-South issues based on facts.

[Wang] Did Kim Il-song talk about North Korea's position on relations with the United States?

[Kim] When I met President Kim Il-song, he told me that Kim Yong-sun, chief of the [Workers Party of Korea] International Department, had been visiting the United States. At that time, President Kim told me that "relations with the United States will go well." President Kim also said that he was very pleased with the North-South adoption of the basic agreement. He also said that the nuclear inspection is no problem because North Korea has no nuclear weapons.

[Wang] What was North Korea's feeling about North-South economic cooperation?

[Kim] During an interview that I had with CHOSON ILBO upon leaving for the North, I said that "it will be possible for us to export $10 billion of goods to North Korea in five to six years." They said that my prediction was very impressive.

As North Korea insists, North Korean workers were excellent in that 100 percent of them were high school graduates. North Korea's industrial facilities reminded me of our economic situation in the early 1970's, when we had to concentrate on exporting light industrial goods. North Korean media reported on our 10-day, nine-night visit every other day. In this way, they expressed their great interest in our visit, and we were warmly welcomed wherever we went. They repeatedly stressed that they would devote themselves to "promoting foreign currency earning (export) industries."

[Wang] What was the North Korean economic situation?

[Kim] Except for the railway and roads, North Korea has a shortage of ports and other economic infrastructure components. The quality of North Korea's light industrial goods was inferior to that of ours. In addition, North Korea's efforts to independently develop heavy industries just like other socialist countries, which produce goods without considering costs, are impressive. North Korean goods were not economical, and the productivity was half of ours, however. North Korea has a very excellent work force. I have come to believe that if North Korea's work force and South Korean businesses' technology were combined, North and South Korea would make a fantastic couple.

[Wang] Would you explain the joint ventures that you discussed with North Korean authorities?

[Kim] We agreed on three points: joint ventures in light industrial goods, investment in mining industrial equipment, including for the coal industry, and joint participation in overseas plants and construction projects. I told North Korean authorities that to efficiently attract South Korean investment, they must revise their joint venture law and upgrade the level of the foreign currency control law and various other legal devices for remittances by foreign companies of their investment returns to the Chinese level at least.

[Wang] Please describe a joint venture light industrial plant in Nampo.

[Kim] Among North Korean cities, I examined Nampo, Haeju, Wonsan, and Hamhung to select a site for an industrial estate. Large-scale port facilities are essential for exporting light industrial goods. So, Nampo was chosen. I proposed to North Korea that the estate be 2 million pyong in area. The joint venture light industrial plant, which I and North Korea agreed on, will be part of this industrial estate. Investment in the plant, which will employ 4,000-5,000 workers, will $10-20 million. I and North Korea agreed that the Nampo joint venture will annually produce 2 million shirts, 400,000 blouses, 200,000 jackets, 600,000 bags, 1.8 millions shoes, 2.4 million undershirts, 100,000 spindles, 5.4 million stuffed toys, and 1.9 million pieces of stainless steel tableware and kitchenware.

When the 2 million-pyong estate is completely filled with this and other plants, I think, goods worth $10 billion will be exported.

[Wang] Please explain your plan to invest in mining.

[Kim] Considering the fact that South Korea imports 100 percent of its zinc, I proposed an initial investment to develop a zinc mine in Unpa, Hwanghae Province. I also proposed the development of the Sinson Mine in South Pyongan Province to dig 1 million tons of coal.

[Wang] How will the North and South jointly participate in overseas plant and construction projects?

[Kim] I proposed that North Korean workers and technology be used in a $1 billion road construction project that Daewoo signed with the Pakistani Government on 15 January and in textile plants in Sudan and Tanzania, Africa. North Korea gave a positive response. I also proposed that North Korean engineers, truck drivers, and equipment operators work at Daewoo's overseas construction sites in Libya, Iran, and other countries.

[Wang] Would you explain some media reports that "Daewoo industrial estate" will be built in Nampo?

[Kim] That is absolutely not true. I am planning to disclose all the achievements from my visit to North Korea and allow anyone to participate in any of my projects. I will arrange meetings at the Federation of Korean Industries, Korean Foreign Trade Association, and other organizations to report the result of my visit to North Korea. I will give investment opportunities to companies and those who come from North Korea.

Says Food Shortages 'Not Serious'

SK0102022892 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 1 Feb 92 p 8

[By staff reporter Pak Chang-sok]

[Text] Kim U-chung, chairman of the Daewoo Group, said yesterday that North Korea is short of food and electricity but the shortages are not as "serious" as believed.

Talking about his recent North Korean trip to senior journalists over a breakfast meeting at the Korea Press Center, Kim also revealed that the North Korean textile industry is in excellent state and some of its textile goods are better in quality than products made in South Korea although productivity there is low.

Kim disclosed that he made an observation tour of four sewing factories in Pyongyang and textile plants in Sariwon during his 10-day North Korean visit. Kim said he came to have a deep interest in the North Korean textile industry as a businessman who started up as the manager of a textile firm.

North Korea wants a Chinese-style gradual reform in its transition to market economy instead of an abrupt change, as seen in the Soviet Union and other East European socialist countries, according to Kim.

Apparently in sharp contrast with what has been said by the government authorities, Kim said he believes that shortages of food and electricity are not serious and such problems would be able to be solved through the export of its ample supplies of such raw materials as zinc.

About 1,000,000 tons of rice are needed in the North and 70 million to 80 million dollars may be enough to solve this food scarcity. The money can be easily secured through the exports of some 200,000 tons of the zinc North Korea has.

North Korea, almost totally dependent on water-power generation, is short of 300,000 to 500,000 kilowatts and the shortage is more serious in winter than summer. The problem of electricity shortage will be solved if 150 million dollars or so is invested, according to Kim.

Many of the clothes-making factories in the North have not been operating normally due to the declining exports to former East European socialist countries in the face of the wind of reform now sweeping the area. Consumer demand in the former socialist countries has become more and more diverse due to the massive influx of Western-style culture and consumerism. For example, the old socialist countries want to import blue jeans from North Korea but North Korean plant facilities are not suited to produce these clothes popular with Western youths, Kim said.

Kim said he planned to hire North Korean workers for construction and other industrial projects in such countries as Sudan, Tanzania, and Pakistan. Further inter-Korean consultations are needed to work out safeguards for the prevention of various incidents such as desertion and political asylum, Kim told the journalists' meeting, sponsored by the Korean Newspaper Editors Association.

The Daewoo chairman conveyed his hope to North Korean officials that North Korea would export zinc to South Korea, saying that the Southern side depends entirely on imports for its zinc supply. Kim made agreements for eight projects including the construction of clothes and bag factories and the purchase of North Korean anthracite coal.

To expedite the inter-Korean economic cooperation, institutional devices through the revision of rules such as a joint-venture law should be mapped out by the North Korean authorities, Kim said.

Kim said he had a 30-minute talk with North Korean officials in the presence of President Kim Il-song and met exclusively with the North Korean head of state for an hour.

Kim Il-song apparently has been impressed by President No Tae-u and highly evaluates his nuclear declaration. Kim Il-song stressed the superiority of the Korean people, saying that Kim U-chung's Pyongyang visit may become the first step toward national unification, Kim U-chung revealed.

The Daewoo chairman said that there appear to be conflicts between conservatives and reformists in North Korea over how to respond to the waves of openness. "There were also differences of opinions between the two groups on how to invite me and treat me," Kim said.

Kim urged a greater role by South Korea to promote the well-being of 70 million Koreans for the eventual goal of territorial unification.

Working-Level Talks on UNDP Project Proposed

DPRK Proposes 6 Feb Talks

SK0102013592 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 1 Feb 92 p 2

[Text] North Korea yesterday proposed a working-level meeting with South Koreans at the truce village of Panmunjom Feb. 6 to discuss North Korea's participation in a U.N. Development Program (UNDP) meeting in Seoul Feb. 27-28 on the proposed development of the Tumen River area in North Korea.

Seoul is to host the first meeting of the UNDP's Program Management Committee, which was formed recently by six countries to support the project. They are South and North Korea, China, Japan, Russia and Mongolia.

In a telephone message to Kim In-ho, chief international policy coordinator at the Economic Planning Board, North Korea's International Organizations Cooperation Bureau chief Han Tae-hyok said he would send two working-level officials including one for liaison work to the truce village at 3 p.m. to discuss the matter.

The UNDP plans to form an international port city with a population of some 500,000 along the river over the next 20 years in order to promote economic cooperation among Northeast Asian countries.

The project, expected to cost some $30 billion, will also have a free export zone to attract foreign investment and technology.

The UNDP recently allotted an initial $5.2 million to fund the activities of the program management committee over the next five years.

ROK Suggests Later Date

SK0102092192 Seoul YONHAP in English 0909 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 1 (YONHAP)—South Korea proposed to North Korea Saturday that their working-level contact for discussing Pyongyang's participation in a Seoul conference on the development of the Tumen River be made on Feb. 8 instead of Feb. 6.

Assistant Economic Planning Minister Kim In-ho made the proposal in a telephone message to Han Tae-hyok, director of the North Korean General Bureau of International Organizations.

Kim said he wanted to hold the contact at the truce village of Panmunjom and discuss in detail North Korea's participation in the conference, slated for Feb. 26-March 2, under the auspices of the United Nations Development Program.

Kwon Ho-kyong, secretary-general of the Korean National Council of Churches (KNCC), in a separate telephone message to Ko Ki-chun, secretary-general of the North Korean Christians Federation, counterproposed Feb. 10 as the date for their contact to talk about matters concerning the 41st general meeting of the KNCC to be held in Seoul on Feb. 17.

Kim and Kwon were responding to North Korea's proposal on Jan. 31 that contacts for both the UNDP Conference and the KNCC meeting be held on Feb. 6, respectively.

Government Plans To Control Investment in North

SK0102032092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0027 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 1 (YONHAP)—The government has decided to form a screening committee to prevent excessive competition and duplicated investment by private industry in North Korea.

Government sources said Saturday the panel will consist of officials of bureau-chief level from the Economic Planning Board, Finance Ministry, Trade and Industry Ministry, National Unification Board and other ministries concerned.

The committee will go into operation as soon as the Economic Planning Board formulates government guidelines for the South-North Korean economic cooperation, the sources said.

They said it was meaningless for the government to try to control merchandise trade because a substantial trade had been under way between the South and North since last year, but the government coordination is necessary to help prevent excessive competition among South Korean companies and duplicated investments.

The panel could also help simplify the process of investment in North Korea. At present, South Korean companies have to wait at least two months for government clearance for investment in the North, in addition to the usual process of obtaining foreign exchange for investment abroad, they said.

Major Companies Plan Ventures in North

SK0102043492 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 1 Feb 92 p 6

[Text] Spurred by Daewoo's quick move in the race for the inter-Korean economic cooperation, large business conglomerates are picking up the pace.

Samsung Group plans to dispatch an investment delegation to the North in March to discuss joint ventures and other options, business sources said yesterday.

Yi Pil-kon, vice chairman of Samsung Co., will lead the five- or six-member contingent and Samsung has filed its application for the Pyongyang visit with the National Unification Board, they said.

Among the possible sectors for joint ventures are electronics, textiles and daily necessities. Samsung is willing to cooperate with the North in the fields of construction, heavy equipment and civil engineering, they said.

Samsung's move was interpreted by analysts as an attempt to take another initiative to preempt the North Korean market.

The government is preparing guidelines for cooperation and investment in the North to avoid excessive competition among local business groups.

Lucky-Goldstar International Corp. has also learned to push ahead with a plan to send its officials to the North for business talks through a third country's middlemen, mainly in Hong Kong.

The Hyundai Group is following suit.

Lotte Department Store seeks to obtain approval for contacts with North Koreans for business purposes.

The National Unification Board allowed Shinsegae Department Store Jan. 11 to establish sisterhood relations with Pyongyang's No. 1 Department Store.

"Big companies are rushing to make North Korean contacts in part because of growing concern that Daewoo might preempt the North Korean market with its recent joint venture agreement," the sources said.

Overseas Anti-DPRK Organization Established

SK0302010592 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 31 Jan 92 p 3

[Report by correspondent Kim Sok-hwan from Moscow]

[Text] Former high-ranking North Korean officials, such as Pak Kap-tong, Yi Sang-cho, and So Hui, who had fled from North Korea in search of political asylum abroad after actively taking part in establishing the North Korean Government, held a secret meeting in Moscow on 28 January. In that meeting, these former North Korean officials formed the "National Front for Democracy and Reunification of Korea" [Chotongjon] to call for North Korea to practice democracy. They adopted a declaration demanding that Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il step down from power.

Chotongjon, the first anti-North Korean overseas organization ever formed by former North Korean high-ranking officials, draws attention in that in its inaugural meeting the organization called for democratization in North Korea.

In a declaration issued at the inaugural meeting, these figures in exile, who once held such eye-catching titles as senior secretary to Kim Il-song, superintendent of the South Korean Workers Party [Namnodang], vice minister of Home Affairs, head of North Korean delegation to armistice negotiations, and North Korean ambassador to the Soviet Union, denounced Kim Il-song for "driving the country on a ruinous path, reneging the ideals he embraced for the founding of the nation." They urged "Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il, the father and son who are scheming to have power transferred from father to son, to step down from power without delay."

The following is the namelist of 18 former North Korean high-ranking officials who attended the meeting on 28 January.

From the former Soviet Union: Pak Pyong-yul, Yi Sang-cho, Yu Song-chol (former general director of the North Korean People's Army Political Bureau), Kang Sang-ho, Chong Yul (also known as Chong Sang-chin, former North Korean vice minister of cultural affairs), and Chang Hak-pong (former superintendent of the Korean People's Army political officers;

From China: So Hui, Kim Kang (former North Korean vice minister of cultural affairs), and Hong Sun-kwan (former Kim Il-song senior secretary);

From Japan: Pak Kap-tong and Ho Tong-hwan;

From North America: Chu Yong-pok (former director of Engineering Corps, North Korean People's Army Front Line Headquarters).

North Korea, Japan Said Preparing Draft Treaty

SK0302070992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0659 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 3 (OANA-YONHAP)—North Korea and Japan began making draft of a basic treaty in preparation for diplomatic normalization, North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Chon In-chol said Sunday [2 February].

"I do not mean that there is a detailed draft of the basic treaty, but we did talk about the contents of the treaty, things it should include and clarify," Japanese daily ASAHI SHIMBUN quoted Chon as saying in a Beijing-datelined interview.

North Korea and Japan just concluded sixth round of diplomatic talks in the Chinese capital. Reports quoting other North Korean officials at the talks said Japan presented "a list of talking points" on the basic treaty, suggesting that the two countries are inching closer toward establishing formal ties.

On Japan's compensation for the 35-year colonial rule over Korea, Chon said the treaty "must in one form or another include appropriate reparations for the past atrocities."

North Korea welcomes economic cooperation with any country, the vice foreign minister said when asked about Tumen River basin development plan.

North Korea is prepared to cooperate with South Korea anytime in the Tumen development project, he said.

"There is abundance of natural resources and a strong civilian economy in the North. If North and South Korea work on these conditions, the two sides will be able to develop into a unified nation," Chon said.

No Tae-u Reminds Cabinet of Talks With Japan

SK0102014892 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 1 Feb 92 p 2

[Text] President No Tae-u instructed the cabinet yesterday to have close consultations with businesses and experts for the coming talks with Japan on the so-called economic action plan, the presidential office said.

Seoul and Tokyo are expected to start talks in March to prepare the action plan aimed at correcting the chronic bilateral trade imbalance in Seoul's disfavor.

During their summit talks last month, No and Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa agreed that the action plan be mapped out by the end of June.

"We should make sure that requests to Japan are specific and practicable," No was quoted as saying during a weekly meeting with Prime Minister Chong Won-sik. "To do that, the government should accommodate the views of businesses and experts."

The bilateral trade imbalance was the key topic of No's talks with Miyazawa, who visited South Korea Jan. 16-18.

More than 90 percent of Seoul's total foreign trade shortfall of nearly $10 billion last year was from its trade with Japan.

In the wake of the two leaders' agreement to map out the economic action plan, Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok announced a decision to form a special task force to draw up measures to rectify the trade imbalance.

The measures, Yi said, would be presented to the second Korea-Japan Joint Committee on Trade, Industrial and Technological Cooperation to be held in Seoul in March.

At his meeting with Prime Minister Chong, No emphasized that the government should actively support industries with an edge over their Japanese competitors, the presidential office said.

The president also directed the cabinet to push its five-year plan to substitute machinery, parts and materials imports with domestic products.

In his report to the president, Chong said the cabinet will handle inter-Korean economic exchanges and cooperation with prudence, according to the office.

The prime minister also reported that an interministerial task force is dealing with the question of Japan's enlistment of Korean women for sexual service to Japanese soldiers during World War II.

The Korea National Red Cross and civic groups will receive reports on the matter from this month to June, the prime minister was quoted as saying.

During his visit to Seoul, Miyazawa offered apologies regarding the question, but fell short of promising compensation for the women.

The Seoul Government has announced it will formally ask Japan to compensate the Korean "comfort women."

Ties With Moldova, Kyrgyzstan Established

SK0102021592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0204 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 1 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea established diplomatic ties Friday with Moldova and Kyrgyzstan, the Foreign Ministry announced Saturday.

Protocols of diplomatic normalization were signed in Moscow by Korean Ambassador to Russia Kong No-myong and Ion Chebuk, the Moldova representative to Moscow, and by Kong and Akmatbek Nanayev, the Kyrgyzstan representative to Moscow.

The Korean Embassy in Moscow will handle diplomatic and consular functions related to the former Soviet republics for now, the Ministry said.

Korea has full relations with five members of the Commonwealth of Independent States and is expected to form ties with six of the others by mid-February.

Seoul has sisterhood ties with Bishkek, capital of Kyrgyzstan.

Israel Reopens Resident Embassy in Seoul

SK0102021792 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 1 Feb 92 p 2

[Text] Israel reopened a resident embassy in Seoul early this month, with David Danieli as charge d'affaires a.i. The embassy is located in Yoksam-tong, southeastern Seoul.

Danieli was a minister-counselor for Korean affairs at the Israeli Embassy in Tokyo before he came to Seoul.

Israeli Ambassador to Tokyo, Nahum Eshkol, will be concurrently accredited to Korea until the Israeli Government names a resident ambassador, Danieli said.

Spokesman Welcomes UN Nonproliferation Agreement

SK0102051892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0502 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 1 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea welcomed Saturday the U.N. Agreement on Joint Efforts for Global Peace and Non-Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction.

"The South Korean Government Welcomes the U.N. Security Council's [UNSC] agreement Friday [31 January] to jointly work for maintaining global peace and security," Foreign Ministry spokesman Cho Won-il said in a statement.

"The government specially supports the UNSC joint statement for efforts on preventing proliferation of weapons of mass destruction such as biological and chemical arsenal."

Korea will fully comply with U.N. activities for these aims, Cho said.

DLP, DP Announce Parliamentary Candidates

SK0102091592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0515 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 1 (YONHAP)—The ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) and the main opposition Democratic Party (DP) on Saturday announced their candidates for the parliamentary elections in late March.

The DLP named candidates for all 237 constituencies while the DP nominated an initial 178 candidates following days of intense maneuvering, speculation and infighting among factions in both parties.

The DP said it will announce another 32 candidates on Feb. 6. It was not known when it will announce the last

27, including the candidate who will run in the politically important Chong-ro district in Seoul.

In the screening process, the DLP dropped 24 current members of the National Assembly and the DP replaced nine incumbents with new candidates.

The ruling party announced its list after President No Tae-u approved selections made by Kim Yun-hwan, secretary general of the DLP, and other party leaders. On Friday, No, who heads the party, and DLP Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam met at Chongwadae for a final consultation.

The list announced by the DP was approved after consultations between by co-chairmen Kim Tae-chung and Yi Ki-taek. Among those nominated are 42 incumbents and 17 former national assemblymen.

Among those missing from the DLP list are Deputy Prime Minister Choe Kak-kyu, vice speaker of the assembly Kim Chae-kwang, chairman of the National Assembly home affairs committee O Han-ku, chairman of the National Assembly Administrative Affairs Committee Chong Sang-ku, and chairman of the National Assembly Defense Committee Kim Yong-sun.

There was speculation that some of those not on the list are candidates for one of the 62 national constituency seats.

The ruling DLP has replaced a large number of incumbents with "new faces," especially in the Cholla provinces, in an effort to make a dent in the opposition stronghold, some analysts said.

The DLP, which was formed through a merger of three parties in February 1990, dropped 13 lawmakers from the former Democratic Justice Party faction. Five incumbents from the former Reunification Democratic Party faction and six from the former New Democratic Republican Party faction also failed to get renomination.

Three of President No's relatives—Kim Pok-tong, former Minister of Trade and Industry Kum Chin-ho and former Sports Minister Pak Chol-on—were nominated by the DLP along with former seoul Mayor Pak Se-chik, former Deputy Prime Minister Kim Man-che and former Presidential Secretary Kim Yong-il.

Lists Said To 'Fall Short'

SK0202024092 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 2 Feb 92 p 2

[By staff reporter Kim Chang-yong]

[Text] The long lists of nominees, which the two main parties came up with yesterday after a long and cumbersome tug-of-war between rival factions in smoke-filled rooms, fall short of satisfying broad expectations that fresh and competent figures would be named who could retrieve public trust in politics and carry out their proper roles.

Power brokers have been all-out to expand, or at least sustain, the territory of their bosses in preparation for yet another battle for party hegemony and presidential candidacy, rather than keep the faith in popular demand for new faces able to keep up with the rapid developments in other sectors.

The recruitment of clear-fingered and qualified candidates was the good cause espoused by both the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] and the Democratic Party [DP] at a time when politicians were polled as most unpopular following the arrest of several lawmakers on corruption charges and other cases.

Both the ruling Democratic Liberal Party and its major opposition Democratic Party had first declared their full respect for the "mandate of the time."

Obsessed with the lust for power, however, the political leaders later put priority on aspirants' loyalty, wealth and such like and disregarded their careers or characters, as their footholds in the next legislature will be a chief influence on their prospects in the presidential race.

Despite the fact that returns in the Assembly elections in late March will largely determine the presidential standard bearers of the multi-faction DLP and the double-tier DP and further hint at the outcome of the December ballot, voter turnout this time is expected to remain low, analysts viewed.

Apparently affected by some lawmakers' immorality and inactivity in the face of crucial matters of national concern, political apathy emerged as the remarkable new phenomenon in last year's two local council polls.

The DLP announced that it had taken out 58 heads of local chapters, or 24.5 percent of the total 237 heads who were automatically elected candidates of their electoral precincts in ceremonies. In reality, however, only 24 of these, or 13 percent, were dropped from renomination as the rest were given other electoral districts.

The dropouts break down to 13 from President No Tae-u's faction, five from executive DLP chairman Kim Yong-sam's faction and six from co-chairman Kim Chong-pil's faction.

No was not exceptional in the pursuit of his own fractional interests, perhaps for the fielding of the party's presidential candidate from among his followers with an eye to building a safety pin before his retirement a year later.

Severely hit by the opposition sway of the legislative branch for the first two years of the 13th Assembly and seemingly shocked by the humiliation of his predecessor, Chon Tu-hwan, during Assembly hearings, No did not hesitate to nominate his relatives, confidant and old but big names.

Included were former trade-industry minister Kum Chin-ho, former Korea Military Academy superintendent Kim Pok-tong and former sports minister Pak

Chol-on, all his kin, and former deputy prime minister-economic planning minister from his hometown of Taegu.

Behind-the-scenes bargaining characterized the nomination procedures of the DP, too.

Kim Tae-chung and Yi Ki-taek, who share the leadership of the opposition group with the majority Kim faction still enjoying a louder say, formed the screening committee with equal numbers of their deputies.

The 15-day nominating process constantly has snags till the members found "tools for barter."

Kim and Yi finally joined in the process and discussed overnight ways to finalize the list of their candidates. Yet their bitter confrontation left nearly 60 local chapters vacant this time.

DP secretary general Kim Won-ki, who leads the committee, told reporters that the remaining candidates would be bared public at the end of the Lunar New Year holidays.

Signs have already surfaced that the DP will be upset by serious backwash from the nominations as the unsuccessful are showing their muscle and waging protests against the leadership.

DLP To Join International Democratic Union

SK0202012692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0811 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 1 (YONHAP)—The International Democratic Union (IDU) Executive Council agreed Friday [31 January] to accept South Korea's ruling Democratic Liberal [Party] (DLP) as a full member of the Union, DLP officials said Saturday, quoting a report filed by DLP delegates now attending the Council's meeting in Athens.

The resolution will be formally approved in a conference of top leaders of member parties slated to be held in Madrid in September.

President No Tae-u or Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam of the ruling party will deliver a membership acceptance speech in the conference, party officials said.

Major Parties To Concentrate Campaigns in Cities

SK0302055392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0510 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 3 (YONHAP)—South Korea's two largest political parties will concentrate their general election campaigns on the capital and its surrounding region that embraces a dozen of satellite cities, believing that voters there will determine their success or failure across the nation.

"Our party plans to form a special capital zone body, separate from our overall election committee, soon after the current holidays so we can concentrate on the capital area," a senior ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] official said Monday.

As the main opposition Democratic Party is sure to sweep the southwestern Honam area and the ruling party has a lock on the southeastern Yongnam region, the key to election success is the capital area with its 82 seats, or 35 percent of the national total, he said.

The DLP is confident of winning only 15 of the 44 seats in Seoul itself, he said.

"Our party intends to concentrate campaigning on Seoul and other cities in the metropolitan area, such as Inchon and Suwon, to win the elections decisively," the official said.

The election platform of the ruling party will offer solutions for such chronic problems as traffic congestion, housing shortage and the surge in crime, he said.

"We will also use the improvement in inter-Korean relations, especially the possibility of a South-North Korean summit, and other achievements of northern policy in our campaign," the official said.

DLP Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam and other party leaders will stump in the capital area, where campaigning will be managed by the party's best election strategists, he said.

Democratic Party plans include creating a "pro-opposition climate" across the country through district chapter inauguration or reorganization rallies, starting in the capital area.

Party strategists believe that young voters generally support the opposition, and may run a separate campaign aimed at them.

They estimate that the Democratic Party can carry more than 30 seats in Seoul, and more than 15 of the 38 at stake in Inchon and Kyonggi Province.

Party co-leaders Kim Tae-Chung and Yi Ki-taek will address most chapter rallies, with an emphasis on the capital zone, to help create an "opposition boom," a party official said.

No Tae-u Names Kwangju Public Prosecuting Chief

SK0102084992 Seoul YONHAP in English 0614 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 1 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u named Kim Yon-hu, chief of the Kwangju High Public Prosecutor's Office, senior presidential secretary for inspection and reform affairs Saturday.

The president also appointed Kim chae-yol, a former president of the Namsongdae Golf Club, senior secretary for general affairs.

The two succeed Kim Yong-il and Yim Chae-kil, respectively, who resigned as presidential secretaries to run in the general elections on the ruling democratic liberal party ticket.

Kim Yon-hu, 51, joined the public prosecutor's office upon graduation from Seoul National University's law school. His major posts include assistant justice minister and chief of the Pusan District Public Prosecutor's Office.

Kim Chae-yol, 60, a retired Army brigadier general, once served as auditor of the Korea Overseas Development Corp.

Nuclear Power Stations Supply Half of Electricity

SK0302061292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0541 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 3 (YONHAP)—Korea's nine nuclear power stations supplied 47.5 percent of the electricity generated in the nation last year, industry sources said Monday.

The atomic power plants put out 56.31 billion kilowatts, an increase of 3.42 billion kilowatts from 1990, the sources said.

They operated at 84.8 percent of capacity, up from 79.3 percent in 1990 and far higher than the world average of 65 percent, they said.

Kori No. 2 recorded the highest rate at 99.4 percent. It was in continuous operation for a record 387 days, until it was shut down for fuel change in April 1991. The reactor's performance was second best among all 346 nuclear power stations in the West, according to the sources.

A growing dependency on nuclear power was accompanied by an increasing number of troubles with reactors, which had to be shut down on 24 occasions last year, or 2.8 times each. In 1990, the rate was two times for each reactor.

Kori No. 1, the nation's first atomic power station, caused the most trouble. It was halted 11 times last year and is being overhauled.

Unplanned stoppages declined in the latter half of the 1980's from 7.5 per reactor in 1985 to 5.5 in 1986, 3.7 in 1987, 1.6 in 1988 and 1.4 in 1989, but then began to increase, rising to two times in 1990 and 2.8 times in 1991.

The 1991 rate is smaller than the 3.7 times in Taiwan, but far greater than the 1.8 times in the United States and 0.4 times in Japan.

Burma

NLD Branches Decry Aung San Suu Kyi Expulsion

BK0102064492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0618 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Excerpts] Rangoon, Feb 1 (AFP)—Local branches of Burma's National League for Democracy (NLD) have strongly attacked the Executive Committee's expulsion of detained opposition leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, political sources said Saturday.

They said 80 local branches were boycotting the executive committee for its decision to strip Aung San Suu Kyi, daughter of Burma's independence hero Aung San, and NLD co-founder and former chairman Tin U of their memberships.

The backlash includes the NLD's Rangoon Division Organizing Committee, which in a letter to party headquarters in January called on the eight-member Executive Committee to resign unless it revoked its decision.

It condemned Aung San Suu Kyi's expulsion in December as "arbitrary" and blamed the committee for taking the decision "without seeking general consensus," one source said. [passage omitted]

NLD chairman Aung Shwe said in December that Aung San Suu Kyi was removed from the party to "dispel misunderstandings between the NLD and the people, and between the NLD and the government."

He pointed out that the military had charged her with "receiving foreign support as evidenced by the fact that the foreign press was describing her as NLD leader," and had also accused her of maintaining "illegal contacts" with outlawed guerrillas fighting Rangoon Government forces.

The decision to strip Tin U and 10 other senior NLD members of their membership was announced in late January. Officials have reportedly asked that pictures of Aung San Suu Kyi and Tin U be removed from the walls of NLD offices in Rangoon.

Khin Nyunt Addresses Judges, Lawyers 28 Jan

BK2901051292 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Address by Major General Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, at a coordination meeting of judicial and law officers from states and divisions in Rangoon's Institute of Nursing on 28 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] I extend my greetings to judicial officers led by the chief justice and law officers led by the attorney general from the central organ and states and divisions, and invited guests present at today's meeting with the maxim: The law protects those who observe the law; those who cherish the law enjoy luxuries and wealth.

I have spoken frequently on regulations, attitude, and guidelines relating to public servants at previous coordination meetings of judges, law officers, members of the People's Police Force, prison authorities, and lawyers. In reviewing whether these instructions have been followed and implemented the following points were found:

1. At every meeting I instructed that in dealing with those who violate the law, sentences severe enough to deter further offenses should be passed to ensure the prevalence of law and order and local peace and tranquility. Some judges are still not following this instruction and are passing lenient sentences and sentences that are not in proportion to the severity of the offense.

2. I had instructed that cases should be built strongly in preparing cases and to give full support to the prosecution to facilitate and adjudicate the cases correctly. However, shortcomings have been found in this aspect.

3. Shortcomings are also found in that no effective action has been taken to implement my instruction to eradicate undesirable practices in the vicinity of courts and it is found that some of these undesirable practises still prevail in the vicinity of courts.

4. Although some law officers are providing more assistance to courts for ajudicating cases correctly and promptly, it is found that in some township courts there are still shortcomings in providing assistance to courts.

5. Despite effective action taken against cases of bribery and corruption according to my instruction, there are still such cases and action has still to be taken on bribery and corruption.

The former Council of People's Justices Law was abolished after the State Law and Order Restoration Council came into being and the system of adjudication through jury has been replaced with the system of adjudication through a single judge and this system has been in practice for three years now. Although the judicial system was reformed to suit the changing times it is found that there are still defects and shortcomings in the practical implementation of the system despite repeated scrutiny and instructions on defects and shortcomings of the system. If we only keep a record of scrutiny and instructions without taking action and implementing the findings we will just be wasting our time in the circles of scrutiny and review.

Therefore, I would like to say that the time has now come for judicial authorities at different levels to transform words into deeds. I would like to reiterate that effective action will be taken without discrimination if it is found that regulations and instructions are not followed. [passage omitted] I have repeatedly spoken on the need for judicial process to be prompt, correct, and fair. Eras and systems may change, but correctness, fairness, and compassion of a judicial system will remain the desire of the people. Correctness, fairness, and compassion are essential for a lasting judicial pillar, the people's reliance on the judicial process, and the prevalence of law and order and local peace and tranquility.

In judicial circles there is a saying that the side which can afford cash wins in adjudication. This saying is just a nice way of describing bribery and corruption in courts. [passage omitted]

It will be necessary to prevent social impropriety, unbecoming conduct, and misconduct among judicial officers. Action had been taken against a total of 170 judicial officers for bribery, misconduct, and partiality since the SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council] assumed power. Of these, 100 were given a warning, 28 were given retirement, 23 were dismissed, six were demoted, seven were demoted after being given a warning, five were denied their yearly increment, and one was denied promotion. Among them were 39 state and divisional-level judges. These situations show unsatisfactory performance in following and implementing instructions from the higher level on conduct and qualifications. [passage omitted]

The SLORC, being a military government, practices martial law which is being used in areas where it is needed. Under martial law it is using military tribunals to promptly and effectively deal with cases involving defiance of authority, confrontation, attempts aimed at disintegration of the Defense Services, and cases which undermine the state and the race. Other cases involving ordinary citizens and which do not infringe on the three cardinal causes—prevention of disintegration of the Union, prevention of national unity, and perpetuation of state sovereignty—are being handled by district courts under the existing laws. [passage omitted]

Next, I would like to speak about lawyers. Legal experts and qualified lawyers are specially needed for a strong legal pillar. By qualifications I mean legal expertise, proper disposition, and good conduct. [passage omitted]

While I have the opportunity I would like to speak on the involvement of lawyers in the country's political changes during the past [1988] events. As I shall be speaking on events which could not be concealed in history there may be some personal references. [passage omitted] After the formation of political parties was allowed some members of the Provisional Burma Lawyers Association joined political parties. Among them were: Daw Myint Myint Khin, National League for Democracy [NLD]; U Ko Yu, NLD; U Tun Tin, NLD; U Chan Aye, NLD; Monywa Tin Shwe, NLD; U Ohn Maung Ban, NLD; U Thein Han, Gyobyu, NLD; U Ye Htut, NLD; U Aung Ban, Democratic Front for National Reconstruction, Union of Burma. [passage omitted]

Among the lawyers was one group which exploited the Lawyers Association and the Lawyers Union and worked toward its sole concern, which was to obtain state power; one group only wanted to stage boycotts and demonstrations without political involvement; one group wanted to stay clear of party politics and respect the law. Those who converted to party politics became obsessed with the objective of obtaining power and neglected the law despite their legal expertise and began engaging in lawless acts and engaged in politics without studying the course of history and taking into consideration the country's geopolitics. We found these political lawyers getting into trouble in the course of their political journey.

After the Defense Services assumed power and allowed the formation of political parties, some lawyers used the Lawyers Association and passed themselves off as representatives of the association in taking their place in some political parties. [passage omitted] Despite their legal expertise these lawyers worked only for the interests of their respectives parties and the own interests and ignored and circumvented the law without regard for the prestige and honor of the country and the people.

For instance, lawyer U Chan Aye's group in the NLD submitted Daw Suu Kyi's [Aung San Suu Kyi] application to stand in the elections despite their knowledge that Daw Suu Kyi is not eligible to enter elections under Article 10-E of the People's Assembly Election Law. Their action, which gave false hope for Daw Suu Kyi's candidacy in the elections, contravened the law and was aimed at making political profit for their party as well as creating difficulty for the state government. [passage omitted]

In conclusion, I would like to cite a treatise by Shin Maha Thila Wuntha [Ava Period monk scholar, 14-15th Century AD] called Maha Dhamma Niti on causes for destruction of a country. These causes were:

1. There is destruction when there is no leader.
2. There is destruction when there are many leaders.
3. There is destruction when the leader is a female.
4. There is destruction when the leader is a child.

These four causes were written by Shin Maha Thila Wuntha. So it is clear that a female should never be a leader in Myanmar [Burma]; likewise a child should not be a leader in Myanmar. When a female or a child becomes a leader the country will be in ruin.

There is no disappearance of leader in Myanmar. The country's leader is Senior General Saw Maung.

I conclude by urging all citizens to participate in harmony in the national construction tasks being undertaken by the SLORC government under the leadership of Sr. Gen. Saw Maung. I also urge legal and economic experts to have a correct objective and a clear mind that is free from delusion and working for the prosperity of the country and emergence of a new peaceful and democratic state. I thank you all. [applause]

Registration of United National Congress Annulled

BK3001145392 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 30 Jan 92

[Announcement No. 1,004 of the Commission for Holding Multiparty Democratic General Elections of the Union of Myanmar [Burma]; dated 30 January 1992]

[Text] Subject: Announcement on deregistration of United National Congress as a political party.

1. The Multiparty Democratic General Elections Commission of the Union of Myanmar [Burma] announced that the United National Congress, with its headquarters at No. 153, third floor, Sule Pagoda road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon [Rangoon] Division, was permitted registration as a political party by the commission in accordance with Article 5A of the Political Parties Registration Law on 23 October 1988. This was stated in announcement No. 38 issued on that day.

2. However, the commission is now in receipt of a request from the party unanimously seeking an annulment of the registration of that party. The Commission thereby declares that the registration of the United National Congress has been annulled with effect from 30 January 1992.

By the authority vested in me,

Signed: Aye Maung, secretary

Troops Prepare for Offensive Near Manerplaw

BK3101010192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 31 Jan 92 p 3

[Text] Burmese government forces are determined to capture the Karen National Union headquartes at Manerplaw this dry season, Moe Thee Zun, chairman of the All Burma Students Democratic Front (ABSDF), said yesterday.

He said the situation is quite critical as about 15,000 Burmese troops had just been deployed across the Moei River and in the Metawar camp.

He claimed that Rangoon had sent 200 transport trucks and bulldozers to Papun, west of Manerplaw to prepare for an offensive.

However, Moe Thee Zun, was optimistic that the rebels would be able to defend the stronghold and stall the Burmese thrust until the arrival of the rainy season.

He disclosed that in the last three years of fighting, the ABSDF had lost about 150 dead and 200 wounded. But he claimed that the Burmese troops sustained even higher casualties.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Further Reportage on Results of ASEAN Meeting

Badawi Returns; Speaks on EAEC

BK2901150592 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in English 1330 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] Malaysia will continue to promote the East Asia Economic Caucus, EAEC, even though the ASEAN summit in Singapore has already endorsed it. Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi told a news conference on his return from Singapore that Malaysia would not just sit back because the ASEAN countries had accorded the EAEC due recognition. Efforts for the earlier realization of the EAEC will be undertaken as soon as possible.

He said Malaysia was very satisfied over the success of the summit as it also meant a success for Malaysia's foreign policy. The country's foreign policy is very closely connected with cooperation among ASEAN countries. With the success of the Singapore summit, ASEAN would emerge even stronger.

On Pulau Batu Putih [disputed island with Singapore], Datuk Abdullah said the Attorney General's Department is preparing (?its) legal document to support Malaysia's claim to it. The document will be studied and then submitted to Singapore. Nevertheless, no time frame has been set for the handing-over of the document.

Badawi on 'Better Future' for ASEAN

BK2801154492 Kuala Lumpur Radio Malaysia Network in Malay 1430 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] Speaking at a special interview with RTM [Radio Television Malaysia], Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Ahmad Badawi gave his comment on the general outcome of the ASEAN summit.

[Begin Badawi recording] I am of the opinion that the fourth ASEAN summit was very successful. The success of the summit proved that the government of ASEAN member countries are very cooperative, while ASEAN leaders also have a high level of understanding among them. Moreover, all leaders are adopting a give-and-take attitude. They are also keen to work together for a better future for the ASEAN member countries. Therefore, with the success of this year's ASEAN summit, I think ASEAN will be more dynamic and more successful in later years. I say this because some major results were achieved. Special decisions relating to economic cooperation, such as the one related to AFTA [ASEAN Free Trade Area], will have positive results on the EAEC [East Asia Economic Caucus] proposal. There was also a political resolution that is based on the awareness and need to ensure that ASEAN will be a stable region. [end recording].

Summit Results Hailed

BK0302124392 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 30 Jan 92 p 8

[Editorial: "Moving Into the Fast Lane"]

[Text] The two-day summit of ASEAN heads of government concluded with the signing of the Singapore Declaration. Summit chairman, Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong described the Declaration as a milestone in ASEAN cooperation. The Singapore Prime Minister was not making the obligatory hyperbolic noises normally attendant on such occasions.

The summit (and its Declaration) was a milestone because it answered the expectations raised of a renewed, even more dynamic ASEAN prepared to respond to circumstances vastly different from the time the grouping was formed a quarter of a century ago—the collapse of the former Soviet empire; the formal ending of the Cambodian civil war; the termination of an American military presence in the Philippines; the growing armies of economic alliances which are retreating into blocs bristling with trade barriers and tariffs; etc.

It is a milestone because it also answered those detractors who have been sneering about the inability of ASEAN to turn its platitudes about economic co-operation into anything substantial and profitable. In working towards an eventual ASEAN Free Trade Area, the member countries have agreed on the adoption of the Common Effective Preferential Tariffs which will reduce tariffs on a long list of products to between zero and five per cent within the next 15 years.

An indication of the seriousness and weight ASEAN is attaching to its plans and initiatives is the raising of the status of the ASEAN Secretariat by, among other things, upgrading the position of the Secretary-General to ministerial level with an enlarged mandate to initiate, advise, co-ordinate and implement ASEAN activities. The heads of government will also be meeting regularly, every three years.

There must be a certain degree of urgency in the efforts to enhance ASEAN economic co-operation because other countries are gathering into regional economic groupings. These groupings pay lip-service to free trade, but actual practice never quite matches up to pious professions of good faith. Which is why ASEAN must strengthen its collective economic muscle to lend weight to its position when it approaches such potentially hostile and protectionist markets.

Not that ASEAN is an economic minnow. The combined GNP [Gross National Product] of ASEAN members amounts to about US $310 billion. In 1990, total intra ASEAN trade was valued at US $53.4 billion. But these figures still have some way to go to catch up with the comparative figures for the Single European Market and the North America Free Trade Area. Hence, the need to step up a gear in pushing for even more impressive economic growth.

It must be fear of the rice potential of an even more dynamic, more assertive ASEAN (working in closer co-operation with its Asian neighbours) that is prompting certain quarters to do their best to scuttle the idea of an East Asia Economic Caucus. The promoters of the concept never envisaged adopting an adversial [as published] role against other economies or regions. What is so heinous about consultation and discussion? The opposition makes it clear there are countries which would like to see Asian countries quiescent and obedient, being satisfied with the decisions and leftovers of others. A confident ASEAN should not accept such a role.

Chief Delegates Review 1992 Border Meeting

BK2901044292 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0353 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 29 (BERNAMA)—Malaysia and Indonesia have agreed to intensify patrols in the Straits of Melaka in view of increasing pirate attacks on merchant vessels, Malaysian Defence Minister Najib Razak said.

He said the 20th Malaysia-Indonesia General Border Committee (GBC) meeting here resolved to beef up naval and police patrols in the straits.

Speaking when closing the one-day meeting Tuesday, he said piracy could adversely affect freight costs and economic stability of nations. The meeting also agreed to give attention to bilateral military exercises and socioeconomic development of areas along the common border.

He said the opening of the Tebedu-Entekong border post in the East Malaysian state of Sarawak would enhance interaction between the peoples of both countries.

In his speech, Indonesian Armed Forces Chief Gen. Try Sutrisno, who jointly chaired the meeting with Najib, said a new phenomenon that emerged following the end of cold war between the superpowers could spark regional conflict and national disunity.

Although the superpowers now used economic and technological factors as well as the mass media as tools to intimidate small nations, the use of military might would continue, he said.

Gen. Sutrisno said there was a need for Malaysia and Indonesia to work together to face the new challenge.

Speaking to reporters later, Najib said the issue of the islands of Ligitan and Sipadan off the East Malaysian state of Sabah should not be allowed to cause a conflict and mar existing ties between Malaysia and Indonesia.

The status quo of the islands, which belonged to Malaysia but claimed by Indonesia, should be maintained pending discussion of the matter by the Malaysia-Indonesia joint commission, he said.

Asked whether the issue was discussed at the meeting, Najib said the GBC provided mechanism for formal and informal discussions on various matters.

"Since the GBC serves as a forum to resolve problems between the two countries, the issue would be discussed later on an informal basis," he said.

However, Najib pointed out that no timeframe was fixed to settle the matter because it was expected to take considerable time and careful study before it could be resolved.

He said there was a need to look at it from the legal point of view.

Najib also announced that the Armed Forces of Malaysia and Indonesia will sign a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in training and logistics next month.

Piracy, Robbery Discussed

BK3001100492 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 30 Jan 92

[Text] Police personnel from Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore will be stationed aboard commercial ships plying the Straits of Melaka and Straits of Singapore to combat piracy.

Defense Minister Datuk Sri Najib Tun Razak said this was among the important matters agreed on at the 20th Malaysia-Indonesia General Border Committee meeting which ended in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Singapore has agreed to the proposal.

Datuk Sri Najib was speaking to reporters at the Royal Malaysian Air Force base in Subang after bidding farewell to Indonesian Armed Forces Chief General Tan Sri Try Sutrisno and his delegation. He had attended the biennial meeting. Fishing, robbery, and piracy on these two important waterways were reported to be on the increase recently.

Although the minutes of the meeting were signed by Malaysian Armed Forces Base Commander Lieutenant Commander General Datuk Abdul Rahman Abdul Hamid, and Chief of Staff of the Indonesian Armed Forces Laksamana Madya [Admiral] Subidyo on behalf of their respective countries. The ceremony was witnessed by Datuk Sri Najib and Gen. Tan Sri Try Sutrisno.

The inspector general of police, Tan Sri Haniff Omar, who was also present said the police had discussed with their counterparts from Indonesia and Singapore the placing of their personnel on commercial ships. They are now looking for a mechanism to implement the move.

General: No Threat From CPM Along Thai Border

BK0102103092 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 30 Jan 92 p 11

[Text] Ipoh, Wed.—No splinter group of communist terrorists operating along the Malaysian-Thai border has been detected since the Communist Party of Malaya [CPM] signed a peace treaty with the Government.

This was stated today by the General-Officer-Commanding Second Malaysian Infantry Division Major General Datuk Mohamed Ali bin Dollah said today.

"As far as the army is concerned, the military threat from the CPM (Communist Party of Malaya) is over," he told newsmen after his first official inspection of the Second Brigade here.

"We are sure there are no splinter groups operating along the Malaysian-Thai border and any weapons and booby-traps found in the area are probably those buried in dumps or laid by the terrorists before the treaty was signed."

According to him, all booby traps planted by the CPM prior to the signing of the peace accord just over two years ago had been removed.

Maj-Gen Datuk Mohamed Ali said that information supplied by the CPM had enabled the security forces to successfully remove all the active booby traps. Those booby-traps, which could not be traced, would not pose a danger as they would be rendered ineffective after some time.

On the recovery of old weapons, he said they would remain buried unless army personnel came across them accidently or through information given by the CPM. This is because the army has no map showing their whereabouts.

On Monday [27 Jan], Perak Special Branch chief SAC [Senior Assistant Commissioner of police] Haji Ibrahim Haji Mohamed Amin had said police and army commandos successfully recovered seven firearms, a communication set and several booby traps during three operations code-named "Operasi Bersih II" [Clean-up Operations II] along the Malaysian-Thai border early last year.

The three operations were launched with the cooperation of the Thai authorities to track down the remaining communists believed to be operating in the jungles of several border districts especially Kedah, Kelantan and Thailand.

More SRV Boat People Return Home Voluntarily

BK2901110492 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 28 Jan 92 p 10

[Text] Petaling Jaya, Mon.—About 109 Vietnamese boat people from 77 families bid farewell to Malaysia as they left the country for their homeland today.

They were the second batch that went home voluntarily this year. The first batch of 12 Vietnamese flew back to their homeland on Jan 15.

Today's group left on two chartered Air Vietnam flights which left the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Susbang at noon.

Officials of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for Malaysia and Brunei, Machiel Salomons and Shamsul Bari, were present at the airport to see them off.

Mr Salomons said this was the biggest batch of Vietnamese refugees flying home to their country since the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA).

He said the UNCHR faced no trouble in sending the boat people home, as a Memorandum of Understanding had been signed with the Vietnamese Government concerning this matter.

He also said as the economy in Vietnam was improving, many more refugees had volunteered to go back to their country.

Currently, there are about 12,500 Vietnamese boat people in the country.

"They have to send an application to the UNHCR if they want to go back to their country.

"Right now, we are receiving about five applications per day from them," he said.

Mr Salomons said the UNHCR was trying to send about 50 to 150 boat people home every month.

Another 66 Vietnamese will be leaving next month.

Quality Control Agreement Signed With PRC

BK3001132092 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 29 Jan 92 p 15

[By Au Foong Yee]

[Text] Malaysian exports to China that are subject to inspection and testing at the point of entry are in the near future likely to get the necessary certifications from the Standards and Industrial Research Institute of Malaysia (SIRIM).

Paving the way for this is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) SIRIM signed with China's State Administration of Import and Export Commodity Inspection (SACI) in Kuala Lumpur yesterday [28 Jan]. The signing of the MOU followed a year of exchanges of documents and discussions between the two parties.

SIRIM was represented by its Controller Dr. Ahmad Tajuddin Ali and SACI by its deputy director general Zhou Xin-Hai who is now in Kuala Lumpur to attend the eighth session of the Codex coordinating committee for Asia. With the MOU, it means that Chinese goods bound for Malaysia may be certified by SACI and this certification will be recognised by SIRIM.

Dr. Ahmad Tajuddin said the MOU is to facilitate trade between Malaysia and China. It is also to promote the mutual acceptance of goods which satisfy quality and safety requirements.

Malaysian exports to China now run the risk of rejection and being sent back by the Chinese authorities. Likewise, certain Chinese goods exported to Malaysia are also subject to endorsement by SIRIM.

SIRIM and SACI officials will be discussing in detail the products that can qualify for mutual acceptance by both Malaysia and China. However, the parties will limit their cooperation to the fields of:

1. testing of products;
2. inspection of factories and consignments;
3. laboratory accreditation;
4. certification of products and processes; and technical information, in particular on standards and regulations.

The discussions will focus on products that involve the safety of consumers.

Cambodia

22d National Assembly Session Closes 31 Jan

BK0102090992 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Report with portion recorded on the closing of the 22d ordinary session of the State of Cambodia's First National Assembly under the chairmanship of National Assembly Chairman Chea Sim on 31 January]

[Text] On the morning of 31 January, the 22d ordinary session of our State of Cambodia [SOC]'s First National Assembly concluded after five days of arduous work from 27 to 31 January 1992.

At 0700 this morning, deputies from the 20 constituencies across the country as well as national and international guests arrived at the cabinet of the National Assembly one after the other. Reporters from national radio, television, newspapers, and the press agency Sapoadarmean Kampuchea [SPK], and so on were prepared to take photos and file reports on the ceremony to close the 22d ordinary session of our First National Assembly.

It is worth recalling that, during the past four days, our assembly was busy holding its session according to the planned agenda. Our assembly members dedicated their attention to a report on the activities of the National Assembly's Standing Committee; the proposal on extending the term of the First National Assemby; reports on activities of the State Council and People's Supreme Court; the implementation of the 1991 state budget planning and the objective of the 1992 state budget planning; the execution of the 1991 financial and budgetary tasks and the objective of the 1992 financial and budgetary tasks; and the balance of the 1990 state budget.

Along with this, our deputies also carefully listened to a report on the activities of the Foreign Ministry and debated, then adopted, a number of draft laws proposed by the National Assembly on prolonging the term of the current National Assembly; on the role and duty of the National Security Ministry; on the role and duty of the Interior Ministry; and on the change of the name, structure, and duty of the Cambodian People's National Bank. They also approved the report presented by the National Assembly's Standing Committee on requests for resignation, nominations, and transfer of vice chairmen and members of the Council of Ministers' cabinet.

In addition, the assembly members listened to an explanation given by His Excellency Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers, on the general situation of political and military activities and foreign affairs, and reports presented by Mess. Nguon Nhel, the agriculture minister; Tie Banh, the defense minister; So Khun [name as heard], communications, transports, and post minister; Chhay Than, finance minister; Hang Chuon, information and culture minister; and Cheam Yiep, director general of the General Department of Tourism. Our assembly also elected Prince Norodom Chakkrapong as vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Mr. Sar Kheng as vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and interior minister; and General Sin Song as national security minister.

Dear listeners: At 0730 the presidium arrived, which is composed of H.E. Chea Sim, chairman of the National Assembly; Their Excellencies Mat Ly and Nu Beng, vice chairmen of the National Assembly; Mr. Men Chhan, chairman of the National Assembly's Economic, Planning, and Budgetary Committee; Mr. Chem Snguon, chairman of the National Assembly's Legislative Committee; and Mr. Kham Len, chairman of the Ethnic Affairs Committee.

Following the debate and adoption by the National Assembly members of the draft law on the punishment of (?terrorist acts) and those who carry weapons or wear [military] uniforms without authorization, H.E. Chea Sim gave a speech to close the 22d ordinary session of the First National Assembly.

Bou Thang, Chea Soth Resign

BK0102015292 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0451 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 31—Two deputy prime ministers have resigned from their posts due to age condition.

Bou Thang and Chea Soth, both vice premiers, had submitted their resignations and were adopted by the National Assembly yesterday during its 22nd session.

Bou Thang, an ethnic minority of the northeastern province, served as head of the General Political Department of the Defence Ministry and deputy prime minister. He was also a permanent member of the Central Committee of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP].

Chea Soth, first Cambodian ambassador to Vietnam and then minister of planning, was also permanent member of the Central Committee of the CPP.

Meanwhile, the National Assembly elected two officials to the posts of vice premier. They are Prince Norodom Chakkrapong, son of Prince Sihanouk, who was recently appointed as advisor to Premier Hun Sen, and Sar Kheng, chief of Organization Commission of CPP. Sar Kheng was also elected as minister of interior.

The National Assembly also released a declaration condemning those involved in Cambodia's recent killing spree.

It said those persons committing terrorist activity would be most harshly punished.

Ministers Considered Close to SRV

BK3101135192 Hong Kong AFP in English 1323 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Jan 31 (AFP)—The Cambodian National Assembly sacked Friday the two Phnom Penh Government officials considered the closest to Vietnam: Deputy Prime Ministers Chea Soth and Bou Thang. The official news agency SPK announced the replacement of the pair by Sar Kheng, a brother-in-law of assembly president and regime strongman Chea Sim, and a son of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Prince Chakkrapong.

Sar Kheng was also named interior minister, replacing General Sin Song, who was put in charge of a brand new ministry of national security to administer security issues in the provinces.

The Interior Ministry is one of the bastions of the power wielded by Chea Sim, who is president of the ruling party and as a former interior minister still has considerable control over internal security in Cambodia.

This division of the Interior Ministry is destined, according to diplomats here, to circumvent scrutiny when the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) comes to take temporary power over parts of the administration and oversee free elections.

A peace plan signed in Paris in October to end the civil war which ravaged Cambodia for 13 years, calls for the UNTAC to take over the Interior Ministry and the other key Ministries of Finance, Agriculture, Information and Foreign Affairs.

SPK said the two deputy premiers had asked to be allowed to retire. Chea Soth and Bou Thang, both members of the Politburo of the ruling Cambodian People's Party, are considered as the two leaders closest to the Hanoi government. Vietnam installed the present Phnom Penh leadership in power following an invasion in 1979 to oust a regime run by the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge.

This relationship was made even starker by the departure of another official close to Vietnam, Heng Samrin, who left the secretariat of the ruling communist party late last year.

General Bou Thang, from an ethnic minority from the hill tribes of northeastern Cambodia, was defense minister in the early 1980s, before being replaced by General Tie Banh, who was close to Prime Minister Hun Sen.

Chea Soth, former member of the Indochinese Communist Party of Ho Chi Minh—which disappeared when each country in the region came out with its own communist party—had left Cambodia for Vietnam in the 1950s. In 1979 he was the ambassador of the Hanoi-installed Phnom Penh government in Vietnam, before returning to Phnom Penh to become minister of planning and deputy premier.

The arrival of Sar Kheng should reinforce the position of Chea Sim, who became the party's president during the last congress, becoming top leader over Hun Sen, according to Cambodia-watchers.

Prince Chakkrapong, who does not belong to the political party loyal to his father, entered the government as advisor to Prime Minister Hun Sen.

The beginning of a political alliance and a coalition between the Phnom Penh government and the pro-Sihanouk alliance, which is led by another son of the former monarch, Prince Ranariddh, fell through a few weeks after Prince Sihanouk's return in November due to foreign pressure.

Outside powers were concerned that Prince Sihanouk should not lose his neutrality.

Prince Sihanouk had returned to the country he once ruled to preside over the Supreme National Council (SNC) which groups the warring factions and will be the symbol of the country's sovereignty during the transitional period before elections.

Three Ministries Created

BK0102015092 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0401 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Text] Phnom Penh 31 Jan (SPK)—The 22d session of the State of Cambodia's National Assembly, at its 30 January session, voted for a Cabinet reshuffle—changing the name and tasks of the National Bank—and the creation of insurance companies and three ministries: interior, national security, and religious affairs.

The National Assembly approved the retirement request of Chea Soth and Bou Thang, vice chairmen of the Council of Ministers. It also approved the proposal made by Chairman of the Council of Ministers Hun Sen on the nomination of Sar Kheng and Prince Norodom Chakkrapong to the posts of vice chairmen of the Council of Ministers.

Sar Kheng, chairman of the Organization Commission of the CPP [Cambodian People's Party] Central Committee, was also named interior minister while former Interior Minister Sin Song was named national security minister.

Chea Sim Gives Closing Speech

BK3101140992 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Speech by Chea Sim, chairman of the National Assembly, at the closing of the 22d ordinary session of the First National Assembly on the morning of 31 January—recorded]

[Text] Dear ladies, gentlemen, and compatriots: According to the planned agenda, the 22d session of our National Assembly in the past five days strived to actively and vigorously perform its work with a sense of responsibility, achieving satisfactory success. Reviewing the results scored by our National Assembly, in general we are able to appropriately assess that we have definitely reached the objectives in accordance with the aspiration of our people across the country. The following is the fundamental objective:

1. To protect religious freedom, honor, dignity, present ownership, and the legitimate interests of the people by successfully maintaining political stability in society and the nation;

2. To develop the society and nation toward rapid prosperity and improve our people's living conditions;

3. To elevate our state's image in the international arena at this new historic stage of national reunification and end the bloody war;

4. To correctly and fully implement all the provisions of the 23 October 1991 peace accord with a view toward safeguarding Cambodia's sovereignty and independence according to the UN Charter; and

5. To create a neutral political climate in society and the nation to enhance mutual trust and confidence with the aim of holding UN organized and supervised free and just general elections in Cambodia.

To achieve these goals, every issue on the agenda was thoroughly discussed and adopted by the entire assembly by taking into consideration the actual national and international situation which has considerably developed.

Based on a spirit of patriotism and highest love for the people, our assembly earnestly discussed the issue of socioeconomic development during the transitional period by taking into account the full protection of legal ownership and the legitimate interests of our people and all private and foreign companies making investments in Cambodia.

Our assembly highly valued the active efforts of the Council of Ministers in improving the country's economic and financial situation, overcoming all manner of obstacles and difficulties at the present time to stabilize and promote our people's standard of living with dignity toward prosperity in a legally guaranteed state. With consciousness and a constructive spirit, our assembly made some requests and recommendations to the Council of Ministers aimed at boosting the efficiency of the state administration at this new historic stage. Moreover, our assembly also debated proposals on expanding the communications and transport infrastructure, ports, airports, post and telecommunications networks, irrigation systems, electricity production, and clean water supply all of which play a vitally important role in serving the needs of our people's lives and promoting our national economy.

Our assembly was of the opinion that these factors remain key obstacles to our national development, thus prolonging the people's poverty. Since our own efforts are still limited, the international community's contribution to solving the aforesaid problems is immensely precious. At a time when the bloody war is moving toward an end and opening an era of peace and national reunification in Cambodia, the creation of favorable conditions for every person to have a chance to live appropriately and suitably is vitally imperative. It is true that the process of developing our economy in 1992 will not be easy at all—new difficulties, obstacles, and trials will continue to face us—but I believe in our great national family and its activities and determination to join hands to resolve all those problems based on a common sense of responsibility for the fate and future of our motherland.

In this context, the sharing of hardship and having understanding with utmost patience are necessary conditions that all of us should accept. Our assembly recognized that the difficulties we come across in the economic field and in our own lives have strongly affected our society and nation. However, to solve those problems, a realistic stance based on the concrete and real situation of the present-day society and nation is needed; otherwise the complicated situation will only become worse. Now more than ever, our state imperatively needs fundamental stability. It is certain that we have no better choice. During the transitional period, our state should firm up its potential in order to ensure the permanency of the state authority, the daily living conditions of our people throughout the country, and the 100 percent implementation of the peace accord.

Regarding the economic sector, our assembly dedicated its attention to promoting agricultural products which are the pillar of the national economy and the foundation for ensuring the daily living conditions of the people all over the country. Several deputies have requested that the government consider the issues of building irrigation systems; ensuring the supply of seeds, fertilizers, and insecticides; protecting natural resources; improving the circulation of manufactured goods; and the taxation policy toward our peasants.

With a sense of responsibility, our assembly also examined the financial hardships that our country and nation are facing. It urged the government to take necessary measures to increase state revenue, practice thrift, curtail red tape, and struggle to stamp out corrupt practices in society. Also on this issue, our assembly stressed that essential and effective measures should be taken in a timely manner to resolve all complicated problems and commit for court trial those who, taking advantage of their positions or roles in society, break the law or misappropriate state property. Along with this, our assembly also asked the government to take legal steps to combat those who intend to stir up confusion in society through revenge, terrorist acts, disturbances, and divisive maneuvers, undermining social stability. The National Assembly also considered that the protection of present ownership is necessary and in conformity with the prevailing tendency in society to avoid a war of ownership that could bring about new bloodshed.

As a number of abductions and murders—including the kidnapping and killing of some police officers, civilian officials, and people in Battambang Province, Phnom Penh, and some other provinces—occurred recently and since these activities are assassinations seriously threatening social order, public security, political stability, and the implementation of the Paris 23 October 1991 peace accord on political settlement of the Cambodian conflict, our National Assembly on 29 January adopted and officially made public a communique announcing that those who are committing any kind of terrorist acts will be most harshly punished. As urgent and indispensable measures to deal with the situation, our assembly also approved laws condemning terrorism and punishing those who carry guns and wear military uniforms without authorization.

Concerning the issue of rights and freedom and respect for human rights, our assembly welcomed the government for its constant efforts to defend and enhance social legitimacy, insure social justice and equality, and the people's honor and dignity. Releasing prisoners from various detention centers is the correct implementation of the Paris peace accord. We expect that this will constitute a model and that all parties will concretely follow in our footsteps. Moreover, the assembly also held that our government should urgently draft a law on journalism to serve as a foundation for the correct use of rights and freedom in a genuinely democratic manner with a view to firmly promoting national solidarity and the implementation of the Paris accord.

In the context of reinforcing social legitimacy, our assembly at its 22d session adopted six other laws concerning the state administrative structure, economic system, judicial procedure, and social order.

On organizational work, the assembly, in view of the government's proposal, elected Prince Norodom Chakkrapong as vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, H.E. Sar Kheng as vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and interior minister, and H.E. Sin Song as National Security minister. Aside from this, the National Assembly also approved the requests of H.E. Bou Thang and H.E. Chea Soth to step down from their positions as vice chairmen of the Council of Ministers.

With respect to the implementation of the 23 October 1991 Paris peace accord, our assembly highly valued the constant physical and moral efforts displayed by His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Supreme National Council [SNC], in leading the process of national reunification by maintaining his neutral stance and good relations with all Cambodian parties. Our National Assembly holds that the neutral stance is of vital importance for reinforcing the implementation of the Paris peace accord and is an important key to settling the remaining unresolved issues. In this context, our National Assembly wishes to appeal to all the Cambodian parties to actively join hands to solve the outstanding problems. This is aimed at speedily organizing future free general elections in which the Cambodian people can exert their rights to self-determination to choose a new leadership to rebuild the country and nation in a democratic manner within a multi-party system. Any invidual or group which is standing in the way of the peace process will not gain the support of the Cambodian people. Those activities will certainly run counter to the people's sacred aspirations of the people all over the country. And the persistence in serving the interests of any individual or group will adversely affect the entire society and nation no matter what.

The assembly wished to express its happiness and profound gratitude to the entire international community for having strived, in all possible ways, to see the Cambodian peace process executed in conformity with the Paris peace accord and provided necessary facilities for the achievement of the process. It has also made all kinds of contributions to the reconstruction of Cambodia. The assembly also welcomes the nomination of Mr. Yasushi Akashi as the special envoy of the UN secretary general in Cambodia. This is a sign of reinforcing the implementation of the peace accord and evidence of the international community's responsibility for the peace process in Cambodia. Moreover, the early deployment of a United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia contingent in the country is an important step toward halting military hostility on the battlefield, thereby paving the way for the creation of a neutral political environment in Cambodia prior to the general elections.

Our assembly also welcomed the process of repatriating Cambodian refugees and displaced persons. This is to put an end to the sufferings of refugees who are living in various camps and to open a new phase in which all Cambodians will contribute their physical and moral strength to the reconstruction of the country and nation.

In the context of sharing the responsibility for definitely achieving national reunification, and especially as the country is in the process of implementing the 23 October 1991 peace accord, according to Article 47 of our State of Cambodia's Constitution, our assembly approved a resolution extending its term for another year. Our assembly members solemnly pledged to do whatever they can to wholeheartedly serve the people and country.

Dear excellencies, ladies, gentlemen, and compatriots: Everything achieved at the 22d session of our National Assembly deeply concerns the fate and future of our country that has profoundly moved ahead during the transitional period and in the process of implementing the 23 October 1991 peace accord. Steps forward to definitely achieving the ultimate goal are not that easy and without difficulty. Ensuring the people's living conditions; administering the state in stability, social order, rights and freedom; and respect for human rights and the people's legitimate interests are a heavy burden that our government has to shoulder with responsibility while implementing the peace accord.

From now on until the holding of general elections to select a constituent assembly which will become the National Assembly that will elect a new government, the process of developing our society and nation can in no way be avoided as the people's needs have increased every day. So in this context, our entire assembly wishes to call on our people from all walks of life to heighten their patriotism, actively participate in undertaking the kind of work beneficial to the country and nation, and correctly execute every clause of the 23 October 1991 Paris peace accord. The people's confidence, cooperation, and understanding of the difficulties currently faced by the Government of our State of Cambodia in carrying out all kinds of tasks constitute steadfast support that our government badly needs more than ever before.

Great national union and unity will lead us toward our principal goal. It is in this spirit that our assembly wishes to inform our people that 1992 is an important year determining the fate and future of our motherland. We will march across an historic phase that requires our sacrifices and patience to surmount various new political and economic trends. The hardships of daily life can be overcome if we join forces to speedily promote national production in all fields while opening our door to foreign investment and international cooperation. We also need to develop our tourist sector. For these objectives, renting or selling some enterprises, factories, and plots of land to national and foreign investors constitute a move that our state should appropriately carry out with the aim of expeditiously translating the free-market economic policy of the people's party into concrete action. Our assembly calls on our entire people to become involved in implementing the economic policy with constructive spirit and a sense of responsibility to improve the living conditions of our people, thus promptly putting a halt to their poverty. In particular, we should clearly understand that peace and national reunification have to be linked with stability and social development.

Appreciating the fine results scored at this assembly session, I would like to wish your excellencies, ladies, gentlemen, and compatriots the five blessings of Lord Buddha. I declare the 22d session of the First National Assembly closed.

Ranariddh Interviewed on 26 Jan SNC Meeting

BK0302071792 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Interview with "Prince Norodom Ranariddh, secretary general of the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia, supreme commander and commander in chief of the National Army of Independent Cambodia, and member of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia," by unidentified correspondent; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] I am a correspondent of the Voice of the Khmer [VOK]. My greetings to Prince Norodom Ranariddh, secretary general of the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia [FUNCINPEC], and member of the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia.

First of all, I would like to thank your highness for this interview. By the way, the SNC held its third meeting under the lofty chairmanship of His Royal Highness [H.R.H.] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the SNC, in Phnom Penh on 26 January. Would you please give a full account of the meeting?

[Ranariddh] Before answering your question, I, Norodom Ranariddh, wish to give the following clarifications:

It is the first time since his appointment by the UN secretary general as the UN special envoy to Cambodia in accordance with the Paris accord on Cambodia that His Excellency [H.E.] Yasushi Akashi paid an official visit to Cambodia to hold discussions with our Samdech Euv [Prince Father]—H.R.H. Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and SNC chairman—and other Cambodian leaders, including myself. He also came to exchange views with the representatives of the five UN Security Council [UNSC] permanent member countries called Perm-Five and H.E. Ataul Karim, head of the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia called UNAMIC.

I have taken note that when he arrived in Bangkok, Mr. Akashi stated that the dispatch of a contingent of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] has met with numerous obstacles, including the important issue of collecting funds for sustaining the UNTAC operation in Cambodia. He added that in his opinion, UNTAC probably could not come before October, that is not after the 1992 rainy season. However, following his visit to Phnom Penh, discussion with Samdech Euv on 22-23 January, and observation of the real situation in Cambodia, Mr. Akashi totally changed his mind. He was of the opinion that the United Nations and he himself have to exert the maximum efforts to send a UNTAC contingent to Cambodia at the earliest possible date, that is within the next two or two and a half months, to provide the possibility of implementing the accord signed in Paris on 23 October.

On your question concerning the outcome of the third SNC meeting held on 26 January under the lofty chairmanship of his highness the head of state and the meetings between the special envoy, Akashi, and the representatives of the Perm-Five and the [Paris conference] cochairmen, I wish to give a brief account of the results of the inter-Cambodian meeting within the SNC framework held at the Khemarin Palace at 0800 on 26 January under the lofty chairmanship of his highness our head of state and SNC chairman as follows:

At the meeting, I, Norodom Ranariddh, on behalf of the FUNCINPEC—a Sihanoukist resistance movement—presented the following proposals:

As his highness the head of state has said on many occasions, the contents of the 23 October accord on Cambodia are very clear. So no further interpretation is needed from any party. Anyway, my question was that if the accord is so explicit, when then will the Cambodian parties execute it meticulously? I also raised an important point by stating that our SNC is the unique legitimate body and source of authority in Cambodia during the transitional period. Why did I need to raise this issue? Because, as the clergy and the compatriots have already known, when Samdech Euv received reports of grievances from his children, especially those in Kompong Thom Province, saying they were attacked by the Khmer Rouge and protests from those who live in the liberated zones under the FUNCINPEC control complaining that they were attacked by the troops of the Phnom Penh regime, he was extremely unhappy and felt great pity for his children, who used to enjoy peace under his leadership in the past. He told them he wielded no power whatsoever. It is true that he is the SNC chairman, but state power, meaning military, police, and administrative power, is totally in the hands of the State of Cambodia under the control of Their Excellencies Chea Sim and Hun Sen.

Samdech Euv has no authority at all. This is why he is not able to solve the problem of continued fighting. And as no army is at his disposal, he is not able to ensure security for his children and protect their property as he used to in the past. His children everywhere, who have fallen victims—I do not want to say of which party—

continue to wonder why fighting keeps going on since his highness' return to the country, and why his highness has not protected them? In view of these matters, and as the SNC is the unique source of state authority as stipulated by the accord, I wonder why Samdech Euv, as the SNC chairman and head of state who is recognized by all and the four Cambodian parties, wields no power. This being the case, in my opinion, the SOC and the three resistance movements should hand over total state authority to his highness in compliance with the UN agreement.

At the meeting, H.E. Hun Sen said: As we are the source of power, this is why we will hand over the function to the United Nations. At the moment, the problem is that the United Nations has not yet come, and if it has arrived, whether it has already begun its work. Just wait for the arrival of the UN official, who will become the source of power and will resolve the security problem for our people.

In my opinion and according to Clause 3 of the accord, state authority should be transferred to Samdech Euv since he is the SNC chairman. This is only my opinion. Moreover, at the meeting Samdech Euv, who clearly understood the security matter—in the fighting, one party has charged another with starting the attack and one group has blamed another endlessly—and since the United Nations did not want to investigate the issue, proposed that we should establish a quadripartite army called the SNC army with a four-party headquarters under the direct leadership of our Samdech Euv. His highness also proposed that the army be called the National Army for Peace and Unity of Cambodia [NAPUC]. The army will be composed of 50 percent of the troops from the State of Cambodia [SOC] and 50 percent from the tripartite resistance movement. The soldiers will wear a unique uniform with a blue beret like the color of the SNC flag, a badge to tell where they are from—for example, that they are from the armies of the SOC, KPNLF [Khmer People's National Liberation Front], Party of Democratic Kampuchea, or our National Army of Independent Cambodia [NAIC]—and a picture of Samdech Euv on the chest. The army is not for fighting but for defending Cambodian territory and cooperating with the United Nations. In the case of accusations as a result of an outbreak of fighting between Cambodian forces, the NAPUC under his highness' leadership would launch an investigation into the charge or prevent the fighting between antagonists to ensure security for the nation and the people.

After listening to the most correct proposal skillfully put by our Samdech Euv, our tripartite movement applauded it as a sign of our approval. However, H.E. Hun Sen asked for time to consider the matter. As for H.E. Hor Namhong, he bluntly said he needed to look into it more closely because he was afraid it might contradict the accord. The proposal of Samdech Euv, our head of state, is correct. I think that if we agree to it, we will be able to solve a large part of the security problem for the country and nation. And if safety prevails, we can smooth out our work. Then the United Nations can come any time, sooner or later. If the UN arrival is delayed, we, Cambodians, can maintain security for the Cambodian people ourselves proudly and with dignity.

H.E. Hun Sen also asked that we should declare that we will abide by the cease-fire, suppress banditry, and refrain from creating at various villages the organizations called the village-level supreme national council. On this matter, Samdech Euv ordered—not just asked—that the cease-fire be executed as clearly specified by the accord. So, we should not violate the cease-fire no matter what.

Concerning the suppression of banditry and so on, his highness was very anxious about the matter. As the clergy has already known, murders and acts of terrorism are on the increase. For that reason, his highness endorsed punitive measures.

As for the establishment of the SNCs at village level, his highness made it very clear to the Cambodian parties that this should not be done. The peace accord prohibits any territorial expansion—existing territory under the control of each Cambodian party should be recognized. Moreover, Samdech Euv indicated that in the region controlled by each party, two flags—the SNC's flag and that of the party itself—should be hoisted. For example, in the territory under the control of the NAIC, the flag of the SNC and our own flag—the one that was flown during the prosperous monarchic era and that the clergy and the compatriots know very well—should be raised. Our flag represents the independence, peace, territorial integrity, and sovereignty of Cambodia. It is also a flag of national honor and reunification with two blue stripes flanked by a red band embossed with the profile of a three-tower temple of Angkor Wat in white in the middle.

After all, the inter-Cambodian meeting held within the framework of the SNC on 26 January did not reach any concrete result except the above main points. Nevertheless, at the meeting if the four Cambodian parties agreed first to genuinely transfer state power to our SNC or to his highness, the SNC chairman, and second to set up a quadripartite army that his highness called the NAPUC, I do believe that we will be able to easily, effectively, and honorably settle various issues to enhance peace and solve numerous so-called Cambodian problems that have arisen since 23 October. If we Cambodians can do that, we not only will be able to ensure security and freedom for our Cambodian nation, but also facilitate work or operations to be undertaken by the special envoy, Akashi, thus smoothing out the execution of the Paris accord on Cambodia.

[Correspondent] On 26 January, the SNC also met with H.E. Yasushi Akashi, special envoy of the UN secretary general to Cambodia, the representatives of the five UNSC permanent member countries, Indonesia, and the Paris conference cochairman. Would you please discuss in detail about the meeting's progress?

[Ranariddh] On the result of the meeting held by the SNC and special envoy Akashi and his aides at 1000 on 26 January, I have the honor of informing our VOK listeners as follows:

After extending gratitute and thanks to the UN special envoy to Cambodia, Mr. Akashi, for coming to save our Cambodian nation on behalf of the United Nations, H.R.H. Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and SNC chairman made a pledge in the name of all Cambodians and in his own name to H.E. Akashi and, through him, to the international community—namely, the United Nations—to provide support and assistance to Mr. Akashi in his delicate but vitally important mission of restoring peace and organizing free and fair elections in Cambodia.

Afterward, a discussion took place between H.E. Akashi and Their Excellencies Hun Sen and Hor Namhong concerning the UNAMIC office. The United Nations proposed to rent a technical and political school constructed by Vietnam for the SOC for use as the UNAMIC office. But Their Excellencies Hun Sen and Hor Namhong said they were not able to give away the school because there is a shortage of classrooms for our Cambodian students. And if they did so, the students would attack them or demonstrate against the decision. H.E. Hun Sen, on behalf of the SOC, offered to provide another building to the United Nations. But Mr. Akashi said the building proposed by the SOC is dilapidated and will require a lot of money and time to restore. Seeing that the issue was not being resolved through discussion and in view of the large sum of money—about $1 billion—to be spent by the international community to help us and since all of us have pledged that we are sincere toward the accord and wish to help the United Nations save our endangered country through holding elections here, and also because we are not able to find proper accomodations for the United Nations, our Samdech Euv, H.R.H. Prince Norodom Sihanouk, provided intervention. This move was very important. On behalf of Cambodia and in his own name as the SNC chairman, he offered to provide the United Nations with the building that is currently being used as SNC headquarters. The building, previously called the State Palace—where former Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew and other important prime ministers from many friendly countries stayed when his highness was ruling the country—is the best place to be found in Cambodia.

So, to show the entire Cambodian people's gratitude to the United Nations and the international community, which have expended considerable monetary, material, and physical efforts to help restore Cambodia, his highness has decided, on behalf of Cambodia and the entire Cambodian people, to offer the state palace to H.E. Akashi for use as the UNAMIC office. This also means that—as his highness put it—since Mr. Akashi on behalf of the United Nations will play the most important role as the administerer of Cambodia, his stay in and the UN function at the mansion is most appropriate. All, including Mr. Akashi and his aides, the representatives of the Permanent Five, and the tripartite coalition movement, enthusiastically applauded in warm welcome to another initiative of his highness and the breakthrough he accomplished.

I wish to stress that if Samdech Euv did not intervene, the matter, in my opinion, would remain unsettled. Mr. Akashi has left to seek funds and materials for the implementation of the Cambodian accord. He would have been reporting to the UN secretary general that, despite UN efforts, the Cambodians could not find suitable accommodations in Phnom Penh for the UN team. As a matter of fact, this time again, Samdech Euv came to the rescue and settled yet another important matter. That was his personal tour de force, his personal display of tact and discretion.

After hearing his highness' proposal, Mr. Akashi gratefully and happily accepted it. In the end, Mr. Akashi informed Samdech Euv and all of us that on his return he would overcome everything to get an advance of $200 million to finance an early dispatch of UNAMIC troops to Cambodia to keep peace and ensure security for the preparations of an early election. Second, Mr. Akashi told us that on his return he would select fully qualified UN civilian officials and bring them along with him to Cambodia in March so they can start implementing the peace plan concerning the control of the five ministries in Cambodia, not only in Phnom Penh, mind you, but also in all provinces, villages, and regions controlled by the four Cambodian groups. Mr. Akashi added that the United Nations would assign its administrators not only to Phnom Penh, not only in the five ministries, but also in other ministries and in the 21 provinces and all districts of Cambodia.

Third, Mr. Akashi said that the United Nations is working out an election law—loi electorale [preceding words in French]—for the elections in Cambodia. It is also working out a "code de conduite" or "code of conduct" [preceding terms in French and English respectively], that will be law for all our Cambodian parties to follow during the electoral campaign.

Fourth, Mr. Akashi said the United Nations would issue so-called internal rules—reglements interieurs [preceding words in French]—for the SNC. All these laws will be submitted by the United Nations to our SNC for examination and early endorsement.

Finally, H.E. Akashi informed his highness and the meeting quorum that he had just received authorization that morning, 26 January, from the United Nations in New York allowing him to immediately dispatch a UNAMIC team of observers to Kompong Thom to cooperate with Cambodians of all factions in immediately stopping the violations of the cease-fire agreement. In my opnion, this was an historic outcome, a most important outcome that gave us hope. Despite problems in our country, all of us patriots wish to have immediate and 100 percent implementation of the accord. And that is one of my greatest hopes.

I would like to take the opportunity of this occasion to inform all venerable monks and VOK listeners that when Mr. Akashi announced all his above promises, he went on to stress that he would do his best so that there will be a free election, an election he described in English as exemplary, a model election in April 1993. I know Mr. Akashi very well. He is Japanese and Japanese people are meticulous and true to their word. If Mr. Akashi, who is a UN representative, said that an exemplary election would be organized in Cambodia, then we can trust him. I trust him. Both Samdech Euv and Mr. Akashi will overcome all obstacles in order to bring success to the implementation of the Paris accord on Cambodia, namely, to bring about an election in the future or, according to Mr. Akashi, in April 1993.

Before concluding my answer to your question, I would like to stress that on 25 January H.E. Akashi and his colleagues met with me at my residence in Phnom Penh. That was a great honor not only to me, Norodom Ranariddh, personally but also to our FUNCINPEC, recognized by all as a Sihanoukist movement. During our discussion, I proposed the following to Mr. Akashi:

First, Mr. Akashi should immediately send UNAMIC observers to Kompong Thom. I said we should not blame this or that party, but should instead help all Cambodian parties. If we keep accusing this or that party of wrong-doing, there would be no end to the problem. Therefore, how should we help? We should help resolve the problems by sending UNTAC forces to Cambodia as soon as possible, by flying the UN sky-blue flags—the flags of peace—everywhere in Cambodia to maintain peace and security for the people.

Second, I proposed that he should see to it that UN civilian administrators come as soon as possible to control the five ministries—the police in particular as security problems are growing steadily in Phnom Penh. Not I alone, but foreign observers, journalists, and two or three other Cambodian factions have clearly stated that Phnom Penh is not a neutral zone. Because it is not a neutral zone, we cannot live there peacefully to work in support of our Samdech Euv within the purview of the SNC to help the United Nations implement the Cambodian peace accord.

Third, I unequivocally informed Mr. Akashi that as a Cambodian I have a high sense of honor and pride; I do not wish to see anyone lord over Cambodia. I want to have only one master, namely HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk. However, after the signing of the 23 October accord, we have accepted that the control of Cambodia should rest in the hands of two persons, one being Samdech Euv in his capacity as head of state and chairman of the SNC, and the other being Mr. Akashi himself who is the special representative of the United Nations for the implementation of the Cambodian peace accord and the preparations of a free and fair election. I told H.E. Akashi not to consider himself a guest of any particular Cambodian party but a leader with a very important role in the implementation of the accord. I also stressed that when his highness received him on 23 January before the first meeting between Mr. Akashi and the SNC members, his highness proposed that Mr. Akashi cochair the meeting with him. This was very significant as his highness wanted to clearly show that Cambodia should have two provisional leaders: his highness himself in his capacity as SNC chairman and Mr. Akashi in his capacity as the special envoy of the UN secretarty general.

In his reply, Mr. Akashi agreed with all my proposals as explained above.

I would like to reiterate to the clergy as follows: The United Nations is going to set up 50 centers throughout Cambodia to dissolve the four armies of our Cambodian factions. Mr. Akashi went on to stress that the United Nations plans to send between 10,000 and 15,000 military personnel to keep peace and ensure security for Cambodia and 4,100 civilian administrative staffmembers to take control of the administration in Cambodia, that is, in Phnom Penh, in the 21 provinces, and in all districts. In conclusion, Mr. Akashi clearly stressed that during the elections in April 1993, the United Nations plans to send 1,500 foreign observers to monitor all polling areas and to assign 6,000 Cambodian observers to all those polling centers to provide freedom for our Cambodian people, the masters of the land and country, to select their own leaders, their own deputies freely and fairly for the first time in the past more than 20 years.

All of this has filled me with great hope. For this reason, I once again would like to appeal most respectfully and most warmly to all Cambodian factions and all Cambodian leaders to respect freedom and human rights and all stipulations of the Cambodian peace accord not only in words but also in actual deeds, because the implementation of the accord constitutes the sole guarantee for the survival of our Cambodian nation. We Cambodians have been relentlessly tearing at each other's throats because foreigners have been pitting us against each other for years. Now, we must recognize our fortune. What fortune?

In my opinion, first, it is because we have our Samdech Euv who at 70 remains very healthy and fully intelligent and astute to lead us and save us. I would like to recall again that the 1970 coup d'etat of the republicans plunged our country into untold misery and destruction. There was another era, that of 1975 which pushed our country into another historical catastrophe when our Samdech Euv on his return instead of returning to his position was imprisoned in the royal palace. Now, there is another regime that had the fortune of welcoming his highness on his return home on 14 November 1991 but has ever since refused to hand over state power to his highness despite the accord's clear emphasis that the SNC is the symbol, the sole source of state power. I would like to appeal once again that we Cambodians should understand that only Samdech Euv can save the nation.

I believe that all grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, and aunts and all venerable monks share my view. At the same time, only the accord signed in Paris on 23 October can restore freedom, territorial integrity, independence, and dignity to Cambodia, to the Cambodian nation. I have no other belief. Nowadays, I feel extremely worried because of many unfortunate developments in the country, especially in Phnom Penh, such as the assassination of Tea Bun-long as well as the attempt on the life of Ung Phan. Nevertheless, I am confident that Samdech Euv and Mr. Akashi will make every effort and overcome all obstacles, however big they may be, in order to give our Cambodian nation the possibility of holding a free and fair election. On behalf of FUNCINPEC, I promise to all venerable monks and all grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles, and aunts that our FUNCINPEC which is a Sihanoukist movement will brave all obstacles to implement the accord fully and completely and to carry out all SNC resolutions, such as the 14 January resolution singlehandedly achieved by our venerated Samdech Euv calling for visits to prisoners in the prisons and the release of political detainees and prisoners of war, recognizing that we Cambodians as a whole have the full right to set up associations, parties, and so on, and also recognizing that there must be freedom of press, and so on. That was an historic resolution made under the correct direction of HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk and adopted by the SNC on 14 January. I beg all factions to abide at all cost by this historic and important resolution.

I would like to inform all venerable monks and all beloved VOK listeners that FUNCINPEC, which is known the world over as a Sihanoukist movement, promises again and again that it will follow Samdech Euv in the Royal Crusade to restore peace, freedom, and independence for Cambodia in accordance with the accord signed in Paris on 23 October.

At this point, I would like to take leave of all venerable monks with the greatest veneration and affection. I would also like to take temporary leave of all esteemed and beloved VOK listeners. Thank you.

Son Sen, UN Envoy Meeting Discussed, Detailed

BK0302031992 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Text] On 28 January, His Excellency [H.E.] Son Sen, member of the Supreme National Council [SNC] and supreme commander of Democratic Kampuchea [DK]'s national army, met with H.E. Yasushi Akashi, special envoy of the UN secretary general to Cambodia, at the ESCAP office in Bangkok.

During the meeting, H.E. Son Sen said:

The past cooperation between the DK party and the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia [UNAMIC] was very good. But our DK party notices that the UNAMIC headquarters are mostly situated in the western part of Cambodia. This is why we wrote a letter on 28 January to H.E. Ataul Karim, UNAMIC head, proposing the deployment of the UNAMIC team together with the four Cambodian factions for observation of the cease-fire in eight other points, namely Kompong Som, Kampot, Takeo, Kompong Thom, Kompong Cham, Stung Treng, Kratie, and Preah Vihear. At the SNC meeting on 26 January, the participants decided to set up another joint post of the UNAMIC and four Cambodian factions in Kompong Thom Province. This is a new development.

Through our past experiences and due to the fact that most of the UNAMIC headquarters are in the western part of Cambodia, we have thus proposed the deployment of the UNAMIC and four Cambodian factions in eight other points in the eastern part of Cambodia adjacent to the Vietnamese border.

We have made this proposal in line with the Paris agreement dated 23 October 1991 which clearly states that immediately after the signing of the Paris agreement, there must be a cease-fire, cessation of foreign aid to all Cambodian factions, and total withdrawal and non-return of all categories of foreign forces from Cambodia. To correctly and effectively implement this point of the agreement, we are of the opinion that the headquarters of the UNAMIC and four Cambodian factions should also be stationed in the eastern part of Cambodia in order to hold inspections to ensure the cease-fire, cessation of foreign aid—weapons, ammunition, and war materiel—and non-return of all categories of foreign forces.

We are of the opinion that to correctly implement the Paris agreement, it is necessary to have the headquarters of the UNAMIC and four Cambodian factions in an additional number of strategic points as follows:

Phnum Den in Takeo Province, Prek Chrey and K'am Samnar in Kandal Province, Bavet in Svay Rieng Province, Krek in Kompong Cham Province, Snuol in Kratie Province, Dak Dam in Mondolkiri, and Bar Kev in Ratanakiri Province.

The deployment of the UNAMIC and four Cambodian factions in these eight new points is, on the one hand, to hold inspections to ensure the cease-fire, cessation of foreign military aid, and total withdrawal and non-return of all categories of foreign forces, and on the other hand, to prepare conditions for the quick deployment of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC]. Without the presence of the UNAMIC and four Cambodian factions in the eastern part of Cambodia adjacent to Vietnam, clashes will certainly continue and we will be further concerned.

Concerning this new proposal by H.E. Son Sen, H.E. Yasushi Akashi said: I would like to thank Your Excellency Son Sen for this explanation. I understand your stance and your party's concern. As you know, we are in charge of the implementation of the Paris peace agreement. I highly value your party's stance regarding the supervision on the total withdrawal of foreign forces from Cambodia, the cease-fire, cessation of foreign aid, and non-return of foreign forces to Cambodia. I would like to reaffirm that the UN stance is to request that all parties concerned respect and implement the Paris agreement. I will make every effort to speed up the dispatch of UNTAC. All parties also want the UNTAC to quickly come to Cambodia. I want the first contingent of the UNTAC to come to Cambodia by the second week of April 1992 or the beginning of May 1992. But this is not an easy job. There are many problems to be resolved, such as the selection of personnel—both military and civilian—and a decision to be taken by the UN Security Council and General Assembly on budgets for purchasing the necessary equipment. However, I will try my best to speed up the dispatch of the UNTAC to Cambodia.

During the SNC meeting held in Phnom Penh on 26 January, I made an appeal and your party also agreed with it. At this moment, I propose that all Cambodian parties maintain a good atmosphere, and avoid clashes. Concerning this matter, we have already agreed to set up another post of the UNAMIC and four Cambodian factions in Kompong Thom Province. At the moment, understanding your concern, I will try to visit the places you proposed. I am also of the opinion that UNAMIC headquarters should be set up both in the western and eastern parts of Cambodia. I will try to settle this matter in line with your request according to the current capabilities of the UNAMIC.

H.E. Son Sen said: I thank you very much for informing us of your efforts to speed up the dispatch of the UNTAC to Cambodia. However, I am also very concerned about your statement that the first contingent of the UNTAC will arrive in Cambodia only in the second week of April or early May. Therefore, I would like to propose that your excellency help speed up an earlier dispatch of the UNTAC to correctly and thoroughly implement the Paris agreement, particularly regarding the following three points:

1. to supervise the total withdrawal of foreign forces from Cambodia;

2. to supervise the disarming of the four Cambodian factions in order to create a neutral political atmosphere; and

3. to supervise a genuinely correct and free election.

In conclusion, H.E. Akashi said: today's meeting to exchange views proceeded successfully in a warm atmosphere. I hope that in the future, the cooperation between the United Nations and your party will further proceed in a cooperative spirit.

Son Sen Proposes UNAMIC Visitation Areas

BK0202012392 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 1 Feb 92

["Message from His Excellency [H.E.] Son Sen to H.E. Ataul Karim, chief of the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia [UNAMIC];" dated 28 January—read by announcer]

[Text] Pailin, 28 January 1992

To H.E. Ataul Karim, UNAMIC chief, Phnom Penh

Your Excellency: First of all I would like to express my warmest greetings to you. From past experiences of our cooperation, particularly the recent experience on the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC]'s decision reached on 26 January 1992 concerning the stationing in Kompong Thom of the four Cambodian parties and UNAMIC, on behalf of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea [NADK], I would like to propose a number of other measures which I think would assist UNAMIC to carry out its duties correctly and efficiently in accordance with the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement and to speed up the deployment of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] in order to:

1. Ensure the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Cambodia;
2. Ensure the disarming of the four Cambodian parties to create a neutral political atmosphere; and
3. Ensure genuinely free and fair elections.

My new proposal, apart from what I proposed to you in my message dated 28 December 1991, contains the following additional points:

1. Phnum Den, Takeo Province;
2. Prek Chrey, Kandal Province;
3. K'am Samnar, Kandal Province;
4. Barvet, Svay Rieng Province;
5. Krek, Kompong Cham Province;
6. Snuol, Kratie Province;
7. Dak Dam, Mondolkiri Province; and
8. Bar Kev, Ratanakiri Province.

I propose that UNAMIC and the four Cambodian parties be stationed together and jointly visit these points.

Please accept my high consideration.

[Signed] Son Sen, SNC member, commander in chief of the NADK

Sihanouk 'Concerned' Over Political Shootings

BK0102145892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0849 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Feb 1 (AFP)—Prince Norodom Sihanouk said Saturday that no culprits had yet been found in Cambodia's recent shootings, which were believed to be politically motivated. The investigations, headed by Phnom Penh's strongman Chea Sim, have failed to yield any results, the prince said.

"Prime Minister Hun Sen has just told me that up to now, after the investigations, he could not find out the culprits," Prince Sihanouk said at a ceremony to sign a cooperation agreement with Laotian Foreign Minister and Deputy Premier Phoun Sipaseut. He said the Supreme National Council (SNC), despite being concerned by the shootings, was content to let the Phnom Penh government handle its own investigation.

"We let the Cambodian People's Party of Chea Sim fulfill the task of continuing the investigation," said the prince, who is chairman of the SNC.

Tea Bun-long, who according to friends was executed after speaking out against government corruption, was found shot to death in a field outside the capital more than a week ago. Exactly one week later, the most well-known opposition leader here, Ung Phan, was nearly killed in broad daylight by drive-by assassins on a road also outside the capital. Prince Sihanouk demanded investigations into both shootings.

Diplomats have said the shooting of Ung Phan could have been directed against Hun Sen, who is a longtime friend of his critic.

Interior Ministry Terms VOA Report 'Fallacious'

BK0102123792 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1100 GMT 1 Feb 92

["Press communique of the Ministry of Interior;" dated 1 February—read by announcer]

[Text] On the night of 31 January 1992, Voice of America [VOA] reported that a spokesman of a Cambodian resistance movement told reporters in Bangkok that agents of the Phnom Penh regime's special A-3 police had threatened a female secretary of the movement on Wednesday 29 January, causing the woman to feel terribly scared, then give up her job. The spokesman also said that 50 men wearing dark glasses had entered and ransacked the office of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF] of Mr. Son Sann and that another KPNLF official had been intimidated by agents of the special A-3 police in the middle of the night.

Regarding the fallacious report, the Ministry of Interior wishes to make the following clarifications:

1. The Interior Ministry's A-3 police force had already been dissolved prior to the signing of the Paris 23 October 1991 accord. At present, no single A-3 police agent is still on duty;

2. Competent services as well as the Interior Ministry have so far received neither complaints nor protests related to the aforesaid charges from any individual or movement at all;

3. At the office of each resistance movement that the State of Cambodia [SOC] has authorized to (?open) in Phnom Penh, the movement has its own armed guards on permanent duty in the enclosure of the office, while the SOC's security forces provide reinforced security outside. This being the case, it was not possible that men wearing dark glasses were able to enter in order to commit violations as alleged; and

4. Therefore, the Interior Ministry categorically rejects the unsubstantiated report, which constitutes an instigation aimed at ruining mutual trust and creating suspicion, thus undermining the climate of national reunification—which has made headway within the framework of the Paris 23 October 1991 accord—for the purpose of stirring up political instability in Phnom Penh to have the SOC blamed and its good standing jeopardized.

[Dated] Phnom Penh, 1 February 1992.

100 Guerrillas Released Near SRV Border

BK0202013392 Bangkok THE NATION in English 2 Feb 92 p A2

[By Leo Dobbs]

[Text] Phnom Penh—More than 100 Cambodian guerrillas headed for their home bases yesterday after being released from a remote prison near the Vietnamese border by the Phnom Penh Government.

Three Red Cross trucks set out from here for northwest Cambodia with the 128 fighters from the three resistance factions of the former alliance that fought the government for almost 13 years.

They were part of a batch of 144 prisoners of war and political detainees released on Tuesday from the T-5 prison in eastern Cambodia's Kompong Cham province, the head of the local International Committee of the Red Cross, Jean-Jacques Fresard, said.

The Prisoners included nine members of the communist Khmer Rouge, which ruled Cambodia by terror from 1975-79.

Most had asked to be taken to refugee camps inside Thailand, but this request was refused because it would have upset Thailand and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees who is preparing to repatriate all 350,000 refugees ahead of the elections due next year.

It was the third internationally supervised release of prisoners held by Phnom Penh since October, when the rival sides signed a peace pact ending their long civil war.

Fresard said the convoy would stop overnight in the western Cambodian city of Battambang before heading northwest along the border with Thailand.

One group would head for Samraong town and then to areas on the Thai border controlled by the non-communist FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an

Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia], which is a faction loyal to Prince Norodom Ranariddh son of former monarch Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

The second would go to the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) stronghold in Thmar Puok, Fresard said, adding that they would travel on a little used track parallel to Route 69 because the latter is mined.

The ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross] repatriated a first group of released Sihanoukists on Jan 25.

Meanwhile, the ICRC chief said that the Khmer Rouge had for the first time granted his organization permission to check on prisoners in areas in holds in regions close to the Thai border.

This was likely to take place later this month and would follow a similar weeklong mission starting on Monday by two ICRC teams into areas controlled by the two non-communist factions.

"There must be prionsers on all sides, I imagine," said Fresard.

The Cambodian rivals are duty-bound to release all enemy prisoners under the terms of the UN-brokered peace pact, but to date only the Phnom Penh government has concurred.

FUNCINPEC and the KPNLF denied holding any political prisoners or prisoners of war from the Phnomn Penh side. They said all had been released following the signing of the peace agreement.

Phnom Penh has released 453 political detainees or prisoners of war under international supervision since October.

Fresard said the ICRC had questioned all the prisoners released to determine where they wanted to go and added that the Khmer Rouge had said its guerrillas were free to go wherever they wanted.

Some of those released had opted to go to villages close to Phnom Penh, while amputees had been taken to the ICRC orthopaedic centre in Battambang to be fitted with artificial limbs.

Among the top political prisoners recently released was Ung Phan, a former minister of transport, who was set free last October after being in jail for 17 months for attempting to form a political party to challenge the one-party rule of the Phnom Penh government.

Earlier international human rights organizations had unsuccessfully pressed Phnom Penh to release him and other government officials who were imprisoned on similar charges.

Khmer Rouge Assumes Right To Act Freely

BK0102104992 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 30 Jan 92

[Unattributed commentary: "Since the Vietnamese Aggressors Continue To Maneuver To Plunder Cambodia in Broad Daylight, the Cambodian People Have the Absolute Right To Do Whatever They Can Until the Vietnamese Invaders Agree To Implement the Accord"]

[Text] Lately, the Vietnamese aggressors have repeatedly uttered that there are no Vietnamese troops left in Cambodia and that Vietnam wants to have good relations with neighboring countries and respect their sovereignty, and so on. The Vietnamese aggressors' utterances have raised the following questions in connection with all kinds of crimes that they have committed against the Cambodian nation and people over the past 13 years:

1. What about the flagrant offensives currently carried out by the Vietnamese aggressors against the national resistance forces everywhere?

2. What of the mapping by the Vietnamese aggressors to misappropriate parts of Cambodian territory in the west of the country, from such provinces as Ratanakiri, Mondolkiri, Kratie, Kompong Cham, Svay Rieng, Prey Veng, Kandal, Takeo and Kampot? And particularly in Kandal Province, the Vietnamese aggressors have dug a new canal past (Prek Cheung Te) several kilometers deep inside Cambodian territory and marked it as a new boundary. As for the Cambodian maritime territory, the Vietnamese have illegally occupied a large part of it—they [words indistinct] and have drawn a new maritime border line past the Poulo Wai and Tang Islands, and taken the Ta Kiev and Seh Islands as well. So how will these matters turn out? and

3. Over one million Vietnamese have occupied Cambodian territory and acted as semi-armed forces, especially in eastern Cambodia. What, therefore, will be the outcome of this issue?

These few issues are more than enough to show that the Vietnamese aggression is no routine matter, but a great problem. They are clear evidence of the Vietnamese aggressors' nefarious scheme. As such, the recent Vietnamese statements are only tactics aimed at plundering the Cambodian territory in broad daylight—a giant wearing an angel's mask ever remains a giant and can never become an angel.

As for the Cambodian people and the Cambodian national resistance forces, they will never, ever allow the Vietnamese aggressors to stir up a cloudburst at will. The Cambodian people have the absolute right to join forces to vigorously implement the great national union policy with a view to completely destroying the stratagem of the Vietnamese enemy aggressors in Cambodia. The Cambodian people and the Cambodian national resistance forces have the exclusive right to do whatever they can to implement the Paris 23 October 1991 accord within the framework of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia, joining the Supreme National Council of Cambodia in verifying the total withdrawal of Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia.

To Fight Until Accord Implemented

BK3001040392 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Unattributed commentary: "The Wicked Intention of the Vietnamese Aggressors in Cambodia"]

[Text] The Cambodian people's tragic history deriving from the 13-year Vietnamese war of aggression clearly shows that both old and new Vietnamese have not yet relinquished Ho Chi Minh's Indochina federation strategy. The Vietnamese aggressor forces are currently on every battlefield in Cambodia. They are serving in Phnom Penh, as well as in the provinces, districts, communes, and villages as advisers of Phnom Penh's administration and army—they are advisers on technical issues, tanks, multiple rocket launchers, artillery, logistical units, and so on. In general, the Vietnamese aggressor forces are permanently stationed in the Phnom Penh faction's divisional commands. In each division, there are 30 Vietnamese soldiers acting as command, liaison, and intelligence officers; in each regiment, 30 Vietnamese aggressor soldiers are serving as command, operational, intelligence, and liaison officers; and in each battalion, 30 Vietnamese aggressor soldiers are working as command, operational, intelligence, and liaison officers.

In each offensive on this or that area, those Vietnamese aggressor forces have commanded both Vietnamese and Cambodian troops with cannons, missiles, tanks, and so on. Apart from this, the Vietnamese aggressors' intervention forces are also stationed in various military regions—1,200 are on stand-by in the First Military Region in Stung Treng Province; 2,000 in the Second Military Region in Kompong Cham Province; more than 2,000 in the Third Military Region in Kompong Speu [words indistinct]; 4,000 in the Fourth Military Region in Siem Reap Province; and over 3,000 in the Fifth Military Region in Battambang Province.

A great number of Vietnamese aggressor troops have also been shipped from Vietnam to Cambodia. They come in groups of 300, 400, or 1,000 to this or that area according to the concrete situation of each battlefield on which they plan to launch an offensive, but they are not sent in as a division or as a whole divisional group.

In view of this, the Cambodian people have full rights to do whatever they can with the aim of executing every provision of the 23 October 1991 accord. This means that the people have every right to continue their struggle and fight against the Vietnamese aggressors until they are forced to correctly implement all the clauses of the Paris accord. The people are determined to combat the Vietnamese enemy aggressors until the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia is stationed in the country to join hands with the Cambodian Supreme National Council to verify and make sure that the Vietnamese aggressor forces completely withdraw from Cambodia.

SRV Troops Sent to Kompong Thom Province

BK0102034892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Text] People in Stoung District, Kompong Thom Province, have reported that last week the Vietnamese aggressors brought 164 of their troops from Svay Rieng Province to reinforce those in Stoung District.

Successive experiences have shown that the Vietnamese aggressors reinforce their troops in order to launch offensives in the dry season against the resistance forces' liberated zones. This dry season the Vietnamese aggressors are going ahead full steam because the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia has not yet arrived in Cambodia; there is no one to control them.

This is a gross violation by the Vietnamese aggressors of the cease-fire and the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement. The Cambodian people will not remain idle to be killed by the Vietnamese aggressors. The latter have violated the agreement; the Cambodian people have the right to do whatever is necessary to force the Vietnamese aggressors to correctly abide by the Paris agreement and withdraw all their aggressor forces from Cambodia.

SRV Said Planning Attack in Kampot Province

BK0202013092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] There are reports saying that on 23 January, the Vietnamese aggressors dispatched 130 of their soldiers to reinforce their colleagues stationed in Trapeang Reang Commune, Chhuk District, Kampot Province.

Sources among the people in Chhuk District say that the Vietnamese aggressors plan to launch a large-scale offensive in this 1992 dry season to seize liberated territory from the resistance forces in Chhuk District.

The people in Chhuk District do know the Vietnamese aggressors. They remain constantly vigilant to absolutely thwart the dark maneuvers of the Vietnamese aggressors and prevent the latter from destroying the people's lives and property.

SRV 'Aggressors' Shell Siem Reap Villages 26 Jan

BK0102015492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Reports from Siem Reap Province say that on 26 January 1992 the Vietnamese aggressors fired many artillery shells on a number of villages in Lveng Russei Commune in Chikreng District, killing or wounding many people. Cattle were also killed, houses burned, and a lot of other property damaged.

The reports say that the people in Lveng Russei Commune are very angry with the Vietnamese aggressors, who continue the war of aggression and race extermination in Cambodia, grossly violating the cease-fire and the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement, which Vietnam itself signed over three months ago. [passage omitted]

All Factions To Be Represented in Military HQ's

BK3101133992 Hong Kong AFP in English 1258 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, Jan 31 (AFP)—Cambodia's committee of generals agreed Friday that officers from all the country's previously warring factions be allowed inside each other's headquarters.

"I think this will be better for maintaining the cease-fire," said Brigadier General Michel Loridon, the head of the military contingent of the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) who chaired the meeting. U.N. troops are responsible for monitoring the initial phase of Cambodia's cease-fire.

"They all told me that where the blue (U.N.) flag is flying, there are no incidents now," Loridon said.

Two officers from each of the four factions will be stationed in all factional headquarters within three weeks, he said. They will also deploy to Kompong Thom Province, Siem Reap and Battambang, where other groups of U.N. military personnel are stationed.

"We guarantee their safety," Khmer Rouge General Mao Savy said after the meeting. "There will be no problem. We have mutual understanding and mutual conviction."

However, the top generals in the Mixed Military Working Group will continue meeting in the capital.

"We are not ready yet" to hold the top-level meeting in factional headquarters, Loridion said. "We have to go step by step."

Khmer Rouge Defense Minister Son Sen arrived in the capital Thursday for the first time since he and Khieu Samphan were chased out by a lynch mob in November. Loridion speculated that, while he did not attend the meeting, Son Sen's presence in the capital was helping Mao Savy to be more cooperative. At previous meetings, Mao Savy had said he would have to ask his superior before committing to any agreements, according to sources who have attended.

At a meeting in Bangkok this week between U.N. special representative Yasushi Akashi, Loridon and Son Sen, the three discussed the Khmer Rouge's refusal to allow U.N. troops to travel freely in Khmer Rouge territory.

"I told them, 'I don't ask your permission. I shall do it, and you four generals have to help me,'" Loridon said.

Last week, the four generals agreed to allow their cantonment positions to be displayed to each other on the same map, and to use the same water, medical and food supply facilities.

The cantonment positions are barracks where demobilized, disarmed soldiers are to be stationed in the coming months.

Indonesia

Alatas' European Tour To Focus on East Timor

BK0302111192 Hong Kong AFP in English 1021 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Jakarta, Feb 3 (AFP)—Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas's tour of European Community (EC) countries this week will focus on East Timor, sources here said Monday.

In EC countries from Wednesday to Sunday, Alatas "will explain his country's point of view following the army massacre in East Timor on November 12 and publication of a report by the official committee of inquiry," a European diplomat told AFP on condition of anonymity.

The Foreign Ministry said only that Alatas had left Indonesia late Sunday and would return in a one week. But European diplomats in Jakarta said Alatas was to visit several European countries from Wednesday through Saturday, after meeting with leaders of non-aligned nations in Nicosia.

Alatas was to visit Britain on Wednesday and Thursday and then go on to Belgium, they said. Although he was expected subsequently to visit other EC countries, his final itinerary was unknown at the time of his departure.

The EC is alone among Indonesia's allies in failing so far to react to an official report on the army shooting incident in East Timor, a former Portuguese colony which Jakarta annexed in 1977.

The report said about 50 people were killed when soldiers fired on a crowd of mourners in Dili, the capital of East Timor. Witnesses and human rights groups set the death toll as high as 115. The United States welcomed the government's effort to study the incident objectively.

Alatas is to return to Europe a second time in mid-February to visit other EC countries, sources here said, adding that he would visit Washington on the same trip.

Suharto Explains Postponement of Civic Programs

BK0302012092 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] President Suharto says the government never thinks that students taking part in civic programs will sabotage the general elections scheduled to be held 9 June 1992. The head of state said this in reply to a question by a student on possible postponement or cancellation of such civic programs this year due to the festival of democracy [popular term referring to general elections in Indonesia]. He was holding a dialogue with youths who have attended a refresher course on national vigilance in Tapos, Bogor, West Java yesterday.

According to President Suharto, the decision to postpone the civic programs was probably made because the authorities deemed it necessary for all sides, including students, to ensure the success of the general elections.

Paper Profiles New Regional Military Commander

BK0202132392 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 14 Jan 92 p 16

[Excerpts] Major General Herman Benhard Leopold Mantiri, 52, the youngest child of the late Andreas Mantiri and Irene Josephine Rorien, 92, suddenly became the talk of town after Armed Forces Commander General Try Sutrisno announced his appointment on 30 December 1991 as new commander of the Udayana Ninth Regional Military Command, replacing Maj. Gen. Sintong Panjaitan. [passage omitted]

The two-star general, known as the smiling face [two preceding words in English] general, is no stranger in East Timor. He once served as commander of Kostrad [Army Strategic Command] First Division from 1986 to 1988, concurrently commander of the Security Operations Command, which was directly under the then Armed Forces commander. His two-year tenure in East Timor was viewed as a success by Governor Mario Viegas Carrascalao, who described his tenure as smiling operation [two preceding words in English]. Maj. Gen. Mantiri admitted he had no specific method to win the hearts of the East Timorese. He simply said: "I believe that people want to be treated as human beings." [passage omitted]

Mantiri joined the National Military Academy in Magelang in 1959. When he graduated in 1962, he began his military career as commander of the 137th Company of the Bukit Barisan Regional Military Command. His career continued to rise steadily: in 1966, he was commander of A/726 Company; in 1967, he was commander of PA. Operations Company; in 1970, he was deputy commander of the 723d Infantry Battalion; and in 1971, he was commander of the 700th Airborne Battalion based in South Sulawesi.

Mantiri's career also rose steadily at the Sriwijaya Regional Military Command. Between 1973 and 1979, he occupied various positions as chief of Operations Bureau, commander of 301st Battalion, deputy assistant in charge of Research and Development Division of the Sriwijaya Infantry Center, and commander of 12th Infantry Brigade.

In 1981, he was an officer attached to the Fourth Defense and Security Operations Command; in 1983, he was commander of 121st Regiment of the Tanjung Pura 12th Regional Military Command; in 1986, he was commander of the Kostrad First Division, concurrently commander of the Security Operations Command in East Timor, and since 1988, he had been assistant to the army chief of staff in charge of planning before his latest appointment as commander of the Udayana Ninth Regional Military Command. [passage omitted]

Philippines

Editorial Calls U.S. Aid Cuts 'Retaliation'

HK0302034692 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 3 Feb 92 p 4

[Editorial: "The Test of Our Anti-Bases Rhetoric Has Come"]

[Text] There can be no doubt that the 50% cut proposed by President Bush's budget on United States aid in the Philippine Assistance Program [PAP] is a retaliation against the Senate rejection of the military bases treaty. The cut signals further uncertainty about the holding of the PAP pledging session. Main PAP donors, especially Japan and the U.S. are instead holding a consultative meeting this month to determine the flow of the aid. If the pledging session is not held after it had been postponed, the Philippines stands to lose around $2 billion in aid this year.

U.S. pique cannot be hidden. It has indicated that while it is prepared to withdraw its facilities and forces at Subic within the Philippine timetable, it is not leaving any useful equipment and facilities behind—especially the drydocks. If the Philippines want these facilities badly so they could be converted into productive assets, the Philippines is driven to find fund-raising schemes with which to buy the American facilities.

The cutting of the Philippine aid, in contrast to the generous aid provided in the U.S. budget for Egypt, Israel, the former Soviet republics and Eastern Europe underlines the depth of U.S. resentment. The slashes do prove that, contrary to what U.S. officials had claimed, the continuation of the bases had been tied to PAP after all. Now, the tables are being turned on the Filipinos. One U.S. official, in a patronizing argument, said that the Philippines built its argument for increased U.S. aid on the bases; now that the Americans are leaving, the Filipinos "have destroyed what has been the rationale for us to use to justify the (aid) program."

The U.S. retaliation should not shock us. It is a logical consequence of our decision to end our security and economic dependency relationship by cutting short the stay of the bases. Retaliation is to be expected.

In rejecting the treaty, we in effect told the U.S. that we want our full sovereignty unimpaired by the presence of the U.S. bases. For this action, we should have to face the consequences. Nationalists in the Senate and in the press called for enjoyment of sovereignty and independence at all costs. Now, we acted independently, but the costs are coming. Independence is not ensured by hotheaded rhetoric. It is attained by building economic muscle. All right, we said, we would rather die or suffer than continue our dependence. So, the test of our rhetoric has come. It's time to perform and show that we can take the costs of being independent.

Perhaps, it will help us if our "friends" are rude to us. The shock that they administer to us punctures our false expectations. It forces us to draw from our internal sources of strength to be able to respond to economic bashing by our former "friends." As far as the U.S. is concerned, it is better for us that we should not expect anything from it—including aid. Without friends, we are forced to be self-reliant.

PNP Says Businessman To Be Freed 'This Week'

HK0302052392 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Michael Barnes, vice president of Philippine Geothermal Incorporated, is still alive. This was declared by Colonel Reynaldo Wycoco, Philippine National Police [PNP] spokesman at Camp Crame. After conferring with top officials of the PNP, Wycoco reported that contact has been made with Barnes' abductors. He did not say which group carried out the kidnapping, but he said the kidnappers have confirmed Barnes is alive.

In the dialogue between PNP officials and the kidnappers, it transpired that Barnes will be set free at any time this week. Wycoco did not say [words indistinct], but he said the important thing is that the American is alive.

[Begin Wycoco recording in English] The PNP is optimistic that we can obtain results within the deadline that we made, which is supposed to be two weeks. And I would like to say that we are gaining headway as far as the solution of the case is concerned. Hopefully we can produce results within the two-week period that we have stated, and we have received reports that Barnes is still very much alive. [end recording]

NPA Demands Army Pullout Before Drown Release

HK0302103192 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 2 Feb 92 pp 1, 15

[Italicized passages published in Tagalog]

[Text] The communist New People's Army [NPA] command in northern Luzon is insisting that all Army soldiers pull out in certain areas of Kalinga-Apayao before the NPA releases a captured ex-U.S. Army officer.

Noli Libertad, spokesman for the NPA Lt. Crispin Tagamolila Command, said the Army soldiers must first pull out of Conner- Pinucpuc, Zinandugan, and Marag areas for 10 days before retired Army Col. Arvey Duane Drown is released.

The 64-year-old Drown, tagged by the NPA as a U.S. defense agent, was captured October 1990 during rebel operations along the boundary of Cagayan and Kalinga-Apayao.

Negotiations for Drown's release began last December but bogged down when the military rejected rebel conditions.

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER office, Libertad said the NPA will free Drown as well as two other captured soldiers once the military complies with its demand.

Brig. Gen. Emiliano Templo, Armed Forces deputy chief of staff for civil-military operations, had demanded that the rebels first specify the time, date and place of Drown's release before the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] suspends operations for 72 hours.

Military officials said they cannot agree to a pullout as this would mean giving up territory they had regained from NPA guerillas in northern Luzon.

The military has launched a big offensive in northern Luzon to wipe out communist influence in Marag Valley where the NPA is belived to have set up a provisional government.

Libertad said the NPA is just being "extra careful" in ensuring the safety of guerillas who would turn Drown over to a Church-led panel.

Libertad also said the NPA cannot take chances in allowing Drown to fall into the hands of a gang of policemen and soldiers said to be behind several unsolved kidnappings in Metro Manila.

"*We do not want* Mr. Drown *to fall into the hands of corrupt military officials who are involved with* kidnap-for-ransom *gangs in Metro Manila. Also, we can not allow some of our members to get hurt just because of our desire to free him right away,*" *Libertad said.*

He said some military officials in Cagayan Valley had already extorted money from the U.S. Embassy in Manila by pretending that military officers were behind Drown's abduction.

Libertad also said the NPA had nothing to do with the kidnapping of Michael Barnes, vice president of Philippine Geothermal Inc., in Makati on Jan. 17.

Military sources said the negotiations for Barnes' release have entered a "critical phase" and may be concluded soon. The same sources, however, would not say which group is responsible for the kidnapping.

Police earlier theorized communist guerillas, military rebels or criminal gangs may have been behind Barnes' kidnapping.

Libertad said the military was just "using (the NPA) because it was possible that the military might be behind the abduction of Barnes."

Government Offers Personnel for UNTAC

HK3101091692 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 31 Jan 92 p 12

[Text] The Philippines has offered to send troops of civilian technical staff to participate in the UN Transitional Authority for Cambodia, [UNTAC] Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Pablo Suarez told reporters yesterday. Noting that UNTAC needs troops to enforce peace between the four Khmer factions and civilian administrators to supervise the impending elections, Mr Suarez said "we have informed the UN Secretary General that we are available to be tapped for either the military or civilian aspect of both." He said this offer was made in the light of ASEAN leaders' call during the recent Summit in Singapore to "dispatch UNTAC as early as possible in order to preserve the momentum of the peace process and to implement the gains realized by the signing of the Paris Peace Agreements." The foreign undersecretary said that Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia had also made similar offers and the latter two have personnel currently participating in the UN Advanced Mission to Cambodia (UNAMIC. "After all," he joked, "we have extensive experience in holding elections. We'll just have to make sure that we send people who can count properly." Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus had earlier proposed sending a distinct ASEAN contingent to take part in the UN's peace-keeping forces in Cambodia. However, diplomatic sources said that idea did not fly because other ASEAN states did not want the grouping to be perceived as a military alliance. That may be down the road anyway as the Singapore Declaration commits member states to seek "new areas of cooperation in security matters."

NPA Criticizes 'Failure' of Comelec Gun Ban

HK0302061592 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 2 Feb 92 p 12

[Text] Communist rebels in Northern Luzon have scored the Commission on Elections [Comelec] for its failure to implement the gun ban in the region and its campaign against private armies. The New People's Army [NPA] rebels also vowed to punish corrupt Comelec registrars.

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER, Rosa Villanueva and Noli Libertad, spokesmen of the National Democratic Front-Far North Luzon and Lt. Crispin Tagamolila Command, respectively, also urged the Comelec to reshuffle its election registrars in the country who are known partial to and are willing "tools of local politicians."

The NPA said that some Comelec registrars have been "experts in the art of cheating since the 1984 elections."

"We will not stand idle to watch the Comelec fool the people into believing that the elections are the cure-all to their miseries," the NPA said.

The NPA said that the Comelec only implements the gun ban in urban places but failed to enforce it in the rural areas.

The exemption of 80,000-strong Citizen's Armed Force Geographical Units (CAFGUs) from the gun ban would render the "Comelec inutile in safeguarding the elections," the NPA said.

The NPA added that not a single warlord or private army in Cagayan Valley has been arrested.

The NPA earlier said there were about 400 warlords in the region.

The NPA challenged the Comelec to take steps and investigate the Northern Luzon Command and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) officials who were actively endorsing and campaigning for candidates.

250 Communist Rebels Surrender in Surigao Del Sur

HK3101090492 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 31 Jan 92 pp 1, 19

[By Mike Crismundo]

[Text] Tago, Surigao del Sur—The Philippine Army and the municipal government here achieved yesterday a breakthrough in the campaign to bring communist rebels back to the fold of law before the May 11 elections when some 250 armed regulars, supporters, and sympathizers of the New People's Army (NPA) surrendered and pledged allegiance to the republic during a mass oath-taking ceremony witnessed by thousands of residents and government and military officials.

Task Force Diamond II commander Brig. Gen. Antonio Nale reported to Brig. Gen. Quintin Alcudia, 4th Infantry Division chief, that the surrenderees were members, district secretaries, and armed regulars of the Militia Regular Party and political, finance and medical officers, lecturers, organizers, and members of Komiting Balangay (Kombal) [Barangay committee] barangay revolutionary committee (BRC), and subversive mass activities (SMA).

The returnees came from barangays Badong, Onahan, Alba, Onidos, and Jubang, all badly hit by the 18-year-old insurgency problem.

The surrenderees attended a three-day live-in reorientation seminar held here with the assistance of the municipal government, social workers, and military men led by the officers of the 67th Infantry Battalion.

During the oath-taking ceremony, the former district guerrilla commanders vowed to help the military in the fight against communist insurgency.

Provincial and municipal officials told the returnees that the government will now press the fight against the remaining insurgents in this town.

36 Surrender, 12 Captured in Mindoro

HK0302101592 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 1 Feb 92 pp 1, 16

[By O. Masaganda]

[Text] Camp Vicente Lim, Laguna—Twelve New People's Army (NPA) rebels were captured while 36 others surrendered in the ongoing government offensive against the communist movement in Mindoro.

The military offensive, launched by elements of "Task Force Rosebow" led by Senior Supt. Ricardo Sarmiento II and Mindoro Philippine National Police (PNP) command, was accompanied by a civilian campaign headed by Gov. Benjamin Espiritu and non-government organizations (NGOs).

Chief Supt. Umberto Rodriguez, PNP Recom [regional command] 4 director, attributed the mass surrender to the efforts of Espiritu and the NGOs in his report to PNP Director General Cesar Nazareno.

The civilian campaign against insurgency was launched after NPA rebels, believed to belong to the Lucio de Guzman command, ambushed a PNP group and staffers of the Roxas District Hospital last Dec. 17. The police chief of Bansud and his driver were killed and the hospital director and his wife were seriously wounded.

Rodriguez predicted that the communist movement in Mindoro will soon collapse because the people have stopped paying "progressive taxes" to the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP)-NPA.

Recently, two NPA collectors were captured with P69,000 [Philippine pesos] reportedly given by a multinational establishment. They were identified as Jaime Padilla and his aide Edwin Sandoval.

During a dialogue in Calapan last week, Senior Inspector Florencio Cacam told the provincial municipal and barangay officials that one of the causes of increasing prices of prime commodities in Mindoro is that businessmen pass on to the customers the "progressive tax" collected by the NPA.

Meanwhile, Quezon PNP Director Rex Piad reported that two NPA rebels were killed and three were captured and three were captured after an encounter in barangay Ibabang Cambuga, Mulanay, in the Bondoc Peninsula, Quezon.

The NPA guerillas were reportedly led by Manuel Regalado alias "Ka [comrade] Tiger." Those captured were identified as Felicidad Regalado, said to be a relative of NPA leader Gregorio Rosal, Liandro Aurina and Isidro Aurin, while those slain remained unidentified.

Chief Inspector Bejamin Belarmino, 23d PBNP Mobile Force Company, reported that taken from the rebels were a list of individuals listed for liquidation, a map of Quezon province, and personal belongings.

Four Soldiers Killed in Zamboanga del Sur Clash

HK3101135792 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0900 GMT 31 Jan 92

[By Rodney Jaleco]

[Text] Four soldiers and a New People's Army [NPA] rebel were killed in an encounter. This is according to a report from the Southern Command received in Camp Aguinaldo today. The soldiers were identified as Staff Sergeant Mario Henayo, Sergeants Aquinlino Ernate, Conrado Bahayhay, and Patrolman First Class [PFC] Nor Angkil. According to the report, the slain soldiers are part of two teams that were undergoing small unit tactics training with the 41st Infantry Battalion when a firefight broke out in Barangay Dumalian, San Miguel, Zamboanga del Sur, at about 2020 on Wednesday night. The three other soldiers who were wounded in the encounter which lasted several hours were identified as Corporal Valentino Cajuto and PFC's Noel Penio and Epifanio Coronado.

Brigadier Gumercindo Yap immediately ordered a hot pursuit operation against the NPA rebels who escaped immediately after the firefight.

NPA Rebels Attack Davao Construction Site

HK3101135992 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1300 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Text] Communist rebels attacked a construction site in Binakun, Davao del Norte, yesterday, burning two bulldozers and equipment owned by the Sebastian Construction Firm. Soldiers based in Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur, and members of the Citizen Armed Forces Geographical Units [CAFGU] were dispatched to give assistance which resulted in a firefight between the two groups wounding three CAFGU members. According to the police, several New People's Army [NPA] rebels were killed but were carried away by their comrades in their escape to the jungles of Binakun.

Five Plantation Workers Killed in Basilan Ambush

HK3101135892 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Text] Five rubber plantation workers were killed while many others were wounded when they were ambushed by armed men. The incident occurred in Barangay Limbutulan, Tipu Tipu, Basilan, on Wednesday. Based on a delayed report, the victims are employees and security personnel of the Tipu-Tipu Integrated Rubber Corporation. The survivors of the ambush have expressed the belief that the assassins are members of the Moro National Liberation Front.

Fernan Becomes Mitra's Running Mate

HK0102084492 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 1 Feb 92

[By Andy Verde]

[Text] Former Supreme Court Justice Marcelo Fernan has wholeheartedly accepted the position of vice president to House Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr. Fernan formally accepted the offer to be Speaker Mitra's running mate in a simple ceremony held at the Makati Sports Club at 1500 this afternoon. Here is part of Justice Fernan's acceptance speech:

[Begin Fernan recording in English] I now take the necessary steps towards unity. I have accepted the offer of Speaker Ramon V. Mitra Jr. to run as vice president. [applause] [words indistinct] my personal ambition for the greater national interest. At all times.... [end recording]

Fernan also added that he accepted the offer to be Mitra's vice president because he believed that their pairing will help further progress in the country. He also said that he sacrificed his personal interests for the unity and improvement of the people.

Five Cabinet Members To Resign, Run for Office

HK0302053892 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in Tagalog 0100 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Five members of President Aquino's cabinet are expected to resign their posts this week to run in the May elections. Friday is the deadline to register candidacies with the Commission on Elections. At that time the cabinet members will tender their resignations. Among those resigning will be Health Secretary Alfredo Bengzon, Justice Secretary Silvestre Bello III, Labor Secretary Ruben Torres, and Budget Secretary Guillermo Carague. Some informants say the president has ordered the five cabinet members to run under the aegis of the People's Party of former Secretary Fidel Ramos.

Aquino Says Military Pledges 'Peaceful' Election

HK0302053492 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Text] President Corazon Aquino has given assurances that certain military elements will not stop the coming national and local elections. The president said the entire Armed Forces of the Philippines have given her a pledge that they will work to ensure a peaceful, orderly, and proper election on 11 May. She added that chief of staff General Lisandro Abadia assured that there is no truth to the rumor about Oplan Noel, or Operation Plan No Election.

Thailand

1,000 Tasked To Clear Cambodian Mines, Fix Roads

BK0202015992 Bangkok THE NATION in English 2 Feb 92 p A1

[By Kokhet Chanthaloetlak]

[Text] The Cambodian war might be over, but the hard and dangerous task of clearing mines and repairing a road there is about to begin for more than 1,000 Thai sappers.

The 1,147 sappers have been assigned to re-do the 48-km section of route No 5 from Poipet to Sisophon to facilitate the repatriation of refugees to the wartorn country.

A unit of the Army's Engineer Department in Ratchaburi province had made preparations to clear landmines in Cambodia almost a month after the Paris Peace Accord was signed in Paris last year.

Several military experts in the armed forces agreed that Thai sappers, apart from their skills, were also familiar with the areas in Cambodia adjacent to Thailand.

Deputy Army chief Gen San Siphen was so confident of Thai sappers' ability that he boasted "they can locate landmines even with their eyes closed."

The general said he was that confident because the Engineer Department's members have modern technology at their disposal. They would also have war dogs, trained to sniff-out mines in the operations, he added.

A military source said the first battalion, consisting of 447 sappers, to build the road from Poipet to Sisophon had to undergo intensive training.

The sappers cleared landmines during the Ban Romklao War (between Thailand and Laos) and shortly before the demarcation of Thai-Malaysian border where they had to defuse explosives planted by separatists.

Engineer Department chief Lt Gen Thawisit Sangsomwong told THE NATION that joint exercise between Thai sappers and those of the Heng Samrin faction was also being organised. Cambodian soldiers will also help clear the mines, he added.

The source said the 447 soldiers will move from their present location in Ratchaburi to the Surasinghanat Base in Prachin Buri's Aranyaprathet district tomorrow (Feb 3) and will begin operations in Cambodia about 10 days later. They have to survey the area along the planned road before clearing the mines, he added. At present, they have only rudimentary information from the Highways Department, which had jointly conducted a survey of the area with United Nations' officials late last year.

The 447 soldiers are being sent directly by the Thai government while the rest of unit would join the United

Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (Unamic) to help monitor the adherence to the peace agreement in the country.

According to the source, the first 10 kilometres of the planned road from Poipet to Sisophon was relatively safer than the rest.

Sappers' lodgings and storerooms are to be built along the road, the source said.

Most of the landmines had been planted by Vietnamese troops, who withdrew from Cambodia about two years ago. Even though soldiers of the Heng Samrin's faction will cooperate in clearing the mines, it would be difficult to locate them as the Cambodian soldiers had not planted the explosives in the first place.

In some areas there are powerful landmines designed to destroy tanks or trucks.

A senior Thai military officer at the Thai-Cambodian border said some areas earlier believed to be safe were actually not. He said when it rained heavily, floodwater could move the mines planted just under the surface of the ground from one place to another. The mines would then be under mud, better hidden than men could achieve.

The Thai group joining Unamic seems to be privileged in that they will use more advanced equipment that the Americans had in clearing Iraqi landmines in Kuwait during the Gulf War.

The source said the Thai soldiers seem to be cautious about their operations in another country. They will wear Thai Army uniforms and will not carry arms, he claimed.

200 Sappers Departing Mid-February

BK0102063692 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in English 1500 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Text] About 200 Thai field engineers will go to Cambodia in mid-February to start their mine-sweeping task while another contingent of 400 field army engineers, who will be officially farewelled on Monday, will reconstruct the main route for Cambodian refugee repatriation.

However, the road repair unit, which is a direct Thai aid contribution to Cambodia, also will have to clear mines along the 48 kilometers of the national Route Number 5 between Poipet and Sisophon before the reconstruction can take plane, army sources said.

Thai Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin said yesterday that the farewell ceremony, presided over by Supreme Commander General Suchinda Khraprayun, will be held on Monday at an army field engineer base in Ratchaburi Province. The team will go to the Thai-Cambodian border the next day before crossing overland into Cambodia, he said. Asa will also attend the ceremony.

Anan Says Arms Purchases Under Close Scrutiny

BK0102013592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST
in English 1 Feb 92 p 1

[Text] New purchase proposals of military hardware will come under closer government scrutiny in the wake of the announced reduction in arms spending by the superpowers, Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun said.

Talking to reporters at Government House on Thursday night, the Premier defended the frequent arms purchases put forward by the Armed Forces and approved by his Cabinet.

He said that the proposals, including that of the Air Force to acquire another squadron of F-16 jet fighters and approved by his administration, were old purchasing schemes.

His administration will not touch purchase plans already committed by the armed forces but will closely review any new proposals that are forwarded to the Government.

He said the Government needs to scrutinise its arms investment plans closely in the absence of a security threat in the region.

US President George Bush has proposed to Congress defence spending cuts of $50 billion over the next six years.

"Thailand, likewise, should look at its defence spending programme," Mr Anan said.

Mr Anan's statement followed Government approval for a number of arms purchase proposals, particularly by the Air Force.

The Air Force late in December won Cabinet approval to buy 18 F-16 Fighting Falcons at a total cost of 15.175 billion baht.

It also won Cabinet approval on Tuesday to purchase 18 Condor armoured personnel carriers at 400 million baht for use in defending air bases in Bangkok and the provinces.

A highly-reliable Air Force source disclosed that the RTAF plans to seek an additional 17,000 million baht from the Government to buy 40 AMX fighting—a joint Italian and Brazilian project—to replace the aging US-made F-5 Tiger fighters.

The acquisition comes in the wake of the attempt by the Government to tighten long-term borrowing by state agencies and the armed forces.

The Cabinet issued a regulation earlier in December to standardise controls on borrowings by state agencies, placing the repayment period of any foreign debt incurred under obligatory budgets to only five years.

Foreign loans sought by the Air Force to buy four C-130 transport aircraft at 3,600 million baht is the first to be affected by the regulation.

However, the Prime Minister yesterday denied any knowledge of a reported plan by the US to sell three E-2C military radar warning aircraft to the Kingdom.

He said that the US administration had to obtain approval from Congress to sell the small airborne warning and control system planes (AWACS) to Thailand.

"But I don't think we intend to buy any," he said.

It was reported on Wednesday that the Bush Administration had notified Congress of its intention to sell three AWACS to Thailand for US$382 million.

The Prime Minister said he was not certain if the US was trying to supply the aircraft to the Thai military. "I really don't know," he said.

However, the premier noted that the planes would not be free.

"There is no longer any such thing as a freebie. If they sell them to us, I'm not sure if we will have the money to buy them.

"This kind of aircraft is only for countries like Israel. Thailand has no need for it," he said.

Air Force Purchase of Armored Vehicles Approved

BK2801141292 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] Today, the cabinet approved the Air Force plan to purchase the Condor armored vehicle for use at various air bases. Deputy Defense Minister General Wimon Wongwanit said the armored vehicles will be used to provide security at eight Air Force bases. Two vehicles each will be assigned to seven Air Force bases upcountry, while Air Force base installations in Bangkok will receive four. Altogether, 18 armored vehicles will be purchased at the total price of about 400 million deutsche marks. The vehicles have high mobility and will be armed with anti-aircraft guns.

Government Plan To Boost Exports Outlined

BK0302015892 Bangkok THE NATION in English 31 Jan 92 p B16

[Text] The Export Development Committee yesterday approved the Commerce Ministry's proposed short and long-term measures designed to accelerate exports and meet this year's target of Bt800 billion.

The measures call on agencies concerned including the ministries of Commerce, Finance, Agriculture and Cooperatives and Industry, plus the Bank of Thailand and the Board of Investment, to cooperate in amending rules and regulations creating red tape in customs procedures and to adjust the tax structure.

The short-term measures were set to overhaul the entire import tax system, starting with the reduction or exemption of taxes on raw materials and equipment used in the textile, jewelry, footwear, plastic pellet and artificial flower industries.

Raw materials and equipment for these industries are currently subject to import tax rates of between 20 and 60 percent.

Under the short-term measures, import and export regulations and customs procedures will be relaxed to facilitate trade between Thailand and other countries. Public relations campaigns for Thai products will be promoted as part of the overseas market expansion plan.

The committee targeted promotion of rubber and frozen chicken exports to the United States and the European Community, canned fruit to Eastern Europe and the Middle East, textiles to Japan, Eastern Europe, the Middle East and South America, footwear to Japan, Australia and New Zealand, travel items to Japan, Eastern Europe, the Mideast, Australia and New Zealand and toys to Australia and New Zealand.

The short-term measures also direct the Commerce Ministry to continue negotiations with trade partners including the US, the EC, Japan and South Korea.

Trade Surplus With Africa Noted

BK0102091992 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English GMT 0000 1 Feb 92

[Text] Trade between Thailand and Africa has been rising steadily with Thailand having a trade surplus over the past 5 years. The Department of Business Economics says that trade gain recorded by Thailand last year amounted to 7.5 billion baht, almost doubling the surplus in 1987 at over 4 billion baht. The trend is likely to continue. Thai exports to African countries are rice and manufactured products, and have been rising steadily. In 1991, Thai exports to the region rose to over 20 billion baht. Rice made up 42 percent of the entire export, followed by garments, canned food, textile, travel goods, plastic products, and tobacco leaves. Thailand, on the other hand, imports weaving yarn, mineral ores, fish, and processed fish from Africa.

Editorial Calls AFTA 'Landmark Achievement'

BK2901011992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 29 Jan 92 p 4

[Editorial: "A Landmark Achievement"]

[Text] Barely a week before the ASEAN heads of government began converging on Singapore for their fourth summit, their senior officials were still haggling over differences of what promised to be the regional grouping's most ambitious programme of economic integration. The initial Indonesian reservations over the Thai proposals for an ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) were hardly surprising in light of Jakarta's concern that its huge domestic market could be swamped by better-quality and cheaper products from its industrially more advanced neighbours. Conversely, Singapore's prompt and firm support of the AFTA scheme was also understandable in view of its higher level of industrial and technological development and its entrepot status.

Differences rooted in the economic nationalism of the individual ASEAN member states are not new. This goes a long way to explain who—despite the grouping's cohesive unity on the political and diplomatic fronts to counter the now-dormant Vietnamese threat over the last decade—its achievement in the field of economic cooperation throughout the grouping's 25-year history has been far from satisfactory. Despite a proliferation of various economic collaborative accords over the years, tangible results have been few and far between. For instance, the majority of a long list of products that were supposed to be accorded tariff cuts under the so-called Preferential Tariff Arrangement (PTA) were either irrelevant or hardly traded in the region.

Against this background, the collective decision by the ASEAN heads at the end of their two-day summit yesterday to adopt an agreement to create AFTA over the next 15 years is, to put it mildly, a landmark achievement. Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun has reason to be proud of the fact that his initiative finally received the official ASEAN seal of approval. Other leaders, Indonesian President Suharto in particular, should also be credited for being pragmatic and far-sighted enough to endorse the scheme. Indeed, Mr Anan was right in describing the accord as marking the dawn of a new era for ASEAN.

Some sceptics had predicted before, albeit prematurely and unfairly, that ASEAN—owing to the competing rather than complementary economies of its member states—might run the risk of falling apart once the Cambodian conflict, which had served as the central rallying point for the grouping's unity and cooperation since the mid-1970s, was resolved. That these sceptics are now proven wrong hardly matters. What is significant about the AFTA accord is its potential to strengthen the grouping's collective economic muscle so that it can be in a stronger position to cope with emerging global economic challenges and new protectionist trends in other formidable trade blocs, notably the integration within the European Community and the North America Free Trade Area. One obvious outcome of AFTA will be the gradual creation of a huge regional market of 300 million people which will make it a lot more attractive for foreign investment among other things.

It is now the task of the regional governments to translate the accord into concrete action so that AFTA's potential can be realised. To demonstrate their seriousness and sincerity, the member states should proceed promptly to effect tariff cuts on the list of chosen products under the Common Effective Preferential Tariffs scheme. Perhaps more importantly, the private sectors in all ASEAN states will have to redouble their efforts to streamline or restructure their businesses and industries in order to attain maximum efficiency.

Some of the less efficient industries might suffer in the short run in the face of cheaper imports. But greater efficiency to be stimulated by stronger competition, and a much larger market to be created by AFTA, will translate into greater benefits in the long run. Given the prospect of tougher competition in the international marketplace in the years to come, the ASEAN industries might as well bite the bullet now and begin strengthening their efficiency and competitiveness sooner rather than later.

Petrochemical Industry Said 'Disadvantaged'

BK3101013392 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 31 Jan 92 p 17

[Text] Thailand's petrochemical industry will be disadvantaged when the ASEAN Free Trade Area [AFTA] is set up, Commerce Minister Amaret Sila-on said yesterday.

He said the industry would face problems due to delays in implementation of projects.

He added that Thailand might also not be able to compete with other ASEAN members which began industrialisation earlier.

But he said the AFTA would benefit Thailand as the country has a great variety of industries, which puts Thailand in a better position that Indonesia, the Philippines and even Singapore.

He said it would take some time to assess the impact on the petrochemical industry when the AFTA is established.

Mr Amaret also noted that when the AFTA is set up, any industry that cannot compete with other ASEAN countries because of unavailable raw materials will be encouraged by the government to invest abroad.

Bank of Thailand, IMF To Jointly Aid Burma

BK3101022592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 31 Jan 92 p B16

[Text] The International Monetary Fund [IMF] and Bank of Thailand will jointly provide technical assistance to Burma's central bank to help the neighbouring country develop its economy.

Central bank Governor Wichit Suphinit said the central bank was asked by IMF to participate in the technical assistance programme. Dr Siri Kancharoendi, director of the Research Department, has been assigned to lead a team of experts to help Burma.

The joint IMF/Bank of Thailand team will visit Burma next month to gather relevant information. Its purpose is to help the country reconstruct its economy and integrate it into the world system. The time frame of assistance will be determined by the Burmese central bank.

Wichit said the Bank of Thailand's involvement represents a gesture of goodwill for neighbouring Burma and could lead to the integration of all Indochinese economies in the future along the course being taken by Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.

A source said Burmese authorities are appreciative of help offered by the IMF/Bank of Thailand mission, reflecting the good relations between Thailand and Burma despite the fact that the latter country has been facing sanctions from some western countries.

Thailand also has opened the way to negotiate with Burma on trade and investment matters, including the proposal to set up bank offices to provide financial services. Thai Military Bank has said it is negotiating with Burma on the opening of a branch in Rangoon.

Thai businessmen are keen to play a role in sugar, forest, mining, liquor distilling, and fishery industries. Wichit said the technical assistance to be provided by Thailand will enhance economic ties between the two countries.

He said Thailand is looking forward to creating a subregional financial centre which caters specifically to Indochinese countries.

Possible Resurgence of Communist Party Examined

BK3101130392 Bangkok KHAO PISET in Thai 20-26 Jan 92 pp 3-7

["Scoop" by Mancha Khiri: "Land Redistribution Program Could Contribute to Revival of Communism in the Northeast if People Are Driven to an Impasse"]

[Text] A lieutenant colonel of the 2d Army Region working for the land redistribution program for the poor under the Internal Security Operations Command [ISOC] confirmed to KHAO PHISET late last week: "The communists have really been carrying out activities in the northeast. This is not just a rumor. The 2d Army Region has evidence of it. According to intelligence reports, there are two groups operating. The first is a group of former communists wishing to reactivate the local communist movement. The second is the local villagers affected by the controversial military-run resettlement program. They have been forced to join with the first group."

A non-government developer who has been working in the disputed area from the very beginning also confirmed to KHAO PHISET that the resettlement project has brought severe oppression to desperate villagers in the southern, central, and northern parts of the northeastern region, which used to be marked a "pink area" on the military's counterinsurgency map. The situation caused those people to hold several meetings since November last year to map out strategies to counter the authorities' measures. However, their move is still at the point of making an assessment.

In the space of only three months, the people gathered at six meetings which were held at different localities to avoid risk. They came up with this conclusion—it is impossible to fight the military-run project through protests or complaints. They have adopted a tactic to coordinate the political struggle with the armed struggle in order to heighten their bargaining power.

The villagers have mapped out two tactical approaches:

1. In the northern part of the northeast region adjacent to the Thai-Lao border where they lack strategic support as relations between Thailand and Laos are improving, the people realized that it would be difficult to conduct underground activities along the border. This is the same with the central area of the northeast, considered to be "blind spots" where armed struggle is impracticable. The strategy in the two areas is therefore that of a political struggle through peaceful means.

2. In the southern area of the northeast adjacent to the Thai-Cambodian border where support can be expected and an armed struggle is possible, the people planned to adopt armed struggle as their method.

At the meeting held on 12 January 1992 in the deep jungle of the Phusang-Pa Daeng area (common border of Loei, Udon Thani, and Nongkhai Provinces), the following strategy was adopted—armed struggle will be carried out from the "outer circle," starting with the southern area of the northeast which is most ready for the struggle. The armed struggle will be boosted by peaceful political struggle to be conducted from the "inner circle" to exert stronger pressure and to heighten their bargaining power.

However, they still could not agree on the leading ideology for the struggle. While a faction proposed Marxism-Leninism as the banner, the other faction disagreed because this is no longer in keeping with the trend of the times with the collapse of communism and socialism worldwide. The latter group proposed a struggle for an "independent state" of the northeast, but their proposal was rejected for the reason that the northeast is a "landlocked" area with no outlet to the sea.

It has been three months now since the movement took shape, but the ideology for the struggle has still not been found.

The "strength" estimated by leaders in the various areas that they have in readiness is around 50,000 to 100,000 men. In any case, this would be enough since the strategy to be adopted is that of guerrilla warfare. Concerning weapons, it is believed they still have plenty hidden in deep jungles or on mountain tops, especially near the common border of Phetchabun and Loei close to the Thai- Cambodian border, in the southern part of the northeast, and also more in the Phuphan mountain range.

Their readiness both in "strength and weapons" comes from the fact that most villagers, who are now under pressure from the land redistribution program launched by the military, are former CPT [Communist Party of Thailand] members in the northeast who defected under the government's policy 66/23 in 1983. "They surrendered empty-handed leaving behind in the jungles the weapons they thought they might have to use again one day," a former guerrilla fighter remarked.

Although there still has been no conclusion on ideology, the movement has made headway in several areas over the past three months, especially in the areas where villagers have problems finding land for cultivation. Those in the southern and northern parts of the northeast made clear their willingness to join the struggle.

There has been an attempt to contact the student body of a university in the northeast to join the struggle, but this was rejected by the students. A number of the "middle-class intellectuals" who work as liaison with the villagers affected by the military-run program also "disapproved" of any struggle beyond "peaceful means."

A middle ranking CPT member formerly based at Phu Hinrongkla said: "As far as I could tell, I could say that the CPT remains an active permanent political group that may indeed be reactivated. If they are faced with unsolvable and intolerable problems, such as injustice regarding land resettlement or eviction under the military-run program, the people could be forced into adopting the old method of struggle."

The military-run program, called in full "The Land Redistribution Program for the Poor in the Northeast," is a program under the supervision of ISOC, the office whose main responsibility was to contain the spread of communism during the peak years of the people's war.

According to an assessment once made by a high-level official attached to a security agency, the problem most likely to explode into "violence" during 1992 is the problem of "land for cultivation."

Article Says Military Disregarding Electorate

BK0202015292 Bangkok THE NATION in English 2 Feb 92 p A9

["Sideline" by Sophon Onkhara]

[Text] So a push has become a shove in the centre stage for forceful politics dominated by the military hotshots on the question of who should be the next prime minister following the March 22 general elections. Two names have been floated around with total disregard to the right of the people to have their representatives elect the person they think fit for the top job.

Ex-Supreme Commander Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong and the leader of the ruling junta has proposed that Army Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun is the most suitable person and if he turned down the suggestion, then Air Force Chief ACM [Air Chief Mashal] Kaset Rotchananin should be an acceptable alternative. Kaset made no comment. There was no rejection either.

As a matter of fact, it was Kaset himself who had uttered aloud that Suchinda must accept premiership last week. Since then, his statement has become a hot topic for politicians to take verbal pot shots at military-guided politics.

None of the military figures has so far made any attempt to impress upon the public why all the names mentioned are better than other politicians now campaigning hard to seek their public mandate under the democratic system. To be fair, there is nothing wrong in Sunthon or Kaset's suggestion that Suchinda is their ideal figure.

But in my view, a person who presents himself for the premiership should be the one who has respect for democratic rule and democratic means to change a government whenever there is such a need. A change by force is internationally abhorred and condemned.

The same person or persons should have a public mandate and recognition for the legitimacy to rule. One must not use the leeway provided under the Constitution to circumvent any test from the public. In a nutshell, if they are that good, let them prove it, by running in the elections and of course, the ideal constituencies should be Bangkok where the least number of voters could be convinced to provide support under financial influence.

The junta overlords must have insisted on their self-abrogated right to play power politics, either in the appointment of senators and the prime minister. Sunthon and other key military leaders have come up with an unpalatable claim that if their comrades-in- arms were not to become senators, who else then.

There is the need for clarity here as to the role of senators. Certainly, if the role of the senate is confined to acting as a rubberstamp for the powers-that-be, instead of being respectable legislators who want to truly serve the public, then there is no need to pick so many members of the armed forces for the financially-rewarding but unproductive job.

If hands must be raised under the whips, then civilian yes men or political cronies can fulfil the same purpose as well.

For this exercise to be more productive, low-income earners or destitute farmers can do the same thing. At least the handsome monthly salaries and extra perks which go with the senatorship could benefit the grassroots level and the underprivileged.

That's not possible, and will never happen, I know. Because another reason given was that members of the armed forces have the same wavelength and ideas. They don't have to be convinced through lengthy explanations.

What then does this mean? It means that the junta leaders are distancing themselves from the public. It could also be that they don't believe civilians have the intellectual capacity to understand what they want to say.

Sunthon complained that there were so many people approaching him with the hope that they could become senators. He was angry when there were indications that the senatorship was up for sale. He had every reason to get mad by the baseless accusation. He must have been wondering why those people are eager to serve in the Upper House.

That's for Sunthon to work things out by himself. On my part, there is another aspect for this line of thinking.

To some aspirants who hope to achieve prestige through a shot cut they think senatorship can still create good impressions on the people who have little understanding in the true nature of local politics.

Please mark my word, a lot of senators to be appointed after the general elections would organize parties and celebrations for their admirers and inveterate free-loaders. In many cases, the senators would be guests at the parties to be held by friends. With 270 senators, the number of parties would be at least twice that figure. This in turn will be a big blessing for the food and catering business in the country.

On the contrary, civilians with enough self respect and who are not accustomed to rigid military discipline that orders must be obeyed without question, would not want to become senators. They don't want to be whipped to raise their hands to support something which they think goes against political morality.

They are too independent and would make it more difficult for the junta chieftains, whos enjoy strong-handed and arm-twisting politics, to control them. They would not want their presence to be used as an endorsement for something which they consider as not wholly democratic.

What is to become our political future is indeed disheartening, particularly when there is an undeniable fact that the junta leaders want to step over the time and don't want to limit their role to just national defence.

I am going to offer my own twisted logics on this issue.

If members of the armed forces, including the top leaders have enough time to serve as senators and indulge in the debates of highly-complicated subjects of legislation, and that the chiefs of the army and the air force can leave the armed forces to fulfil their political ambition, then I can assume that they have less concern for national security and defence strategies.

Then, based on the same twisted logic, there should be no need for our country to procure more expensive weaponry which, no doubt, is wasteful spending when the whole world is moving towards stable, peaceful coexistence and when the majority of rural people are stricken by decades-long poverty and deprivation.

I have said here once that stronghanded politics is exclusively reserved for the shameless, and those without modesty and sense of proportion.

Politicians with decency and genuine desire to stick to the rule of fair play can just show despair towards the devious scheming by the ambitious ignoramuses and those politically unrefined.

No matter how the rules of the game have been set, this breed of politicians still want participation.

At least they can act as a counterbalance to prevent twisted logics in strong-arm politics from becoming a pattern, on a fait accompli, thus leading to a new perception that evil is, in fact, good.

Lao President Sends Message to King Phumiphon

BK3101151992 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Text] His Excellency Kaysone Phomvihan, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, sent a message of thanks to His Majesty the King following his official visit to Thailand on 11-15 January as guest of His Majesty. The message reads:

Highly respected His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet and Her Majesty, the Queen of Thailand,

I beg to inform you that my wife and I have safely arrived in our country. We are deeply touched by the friendship, care, and warm hospitality accorded us by your majesties and members of the royal family during our stay in the Kingdom of Thailand. I would like to take this opportunity to express my profound thanks to the kindness given to me by your majesties and the royal family.

All throughout our visit, in Bangkok and in the provinces, we were given a warm welcome by the Thai people as well as officials at all levels. This reflected the long-dated close relations and brotherly bonds existing between the Thai and Lao people. We are deeply impressed by this. I realize that the visit has elevated to the highest level the Thai-Lao ties based on mutual understanding and trust. I am also convinced by your majesty's suggestion to strengthen cooperation and friendliness between the two countries in a spirit of brotherly and close neighbors.

I wish both of you and all members in the royal family good health and long life so that you remain a shelter for the Thai people forever. The Lao Government, people, and both of us hope to have the honor of welcoming your majesties and the royal family to the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

[Dated] Vientiane, 24 January 1992.

[Signed] President of the LPDR Kaysone Phomvihan.

Czech Prime Minister Arrives for Visit

BK0202142492 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Text] Prime Minister Petr Pithart of the Czech Republic arrived this afternoon for a four-day official visit as guest of the Thai government from 2 to 5 February. He was accompanied by his wife and a number of cabinet ministers. The Czech prime minister and his delegation were welcomed at Don Muang Airport by Pridi Osotsongkhro, deputy director general of the Protocol Department.

The Czech prime minister is scheduled to call on Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun at Government House at 1030 tomorrow. He will visit the Board of Trade of Thailand and some private companies. He will visit the Temple of Emerald Buddha and Wat Arun, and tour the Deep Sea Port Project at Laem Chabang in Chon Buri Province.

Vietnam

Joint Statement Issued on Vessey Visit

BK0102164092 Hanoi VNA in English 1620 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 1—Vietnam and the United States have reiterated the desire of their respective governments for an early normalization of relations between the two countries.

This comes in a joint statement issued here today on the occasion of a visit to Vietnam by General John W. Vessey, U.S. President's special emissary to Vietnam.

The joint statement reads:

"In accordance with an agreement reached between the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Government of the United States of America, General John W. Vessey, Jr., the President's special emissary to Vietnam, visited Hanoi from January 30th to February 1st, 1992. He was accompanied by: deputy assistant secretary of defense for POW/MIA affairs, Alan C. Ptak; the director for operations, U.S. Pacific Command, Major General George Christmas, U.S. Marine Corps; the vice director, J-5 for the Joint Staff, Major General Michael Ryan, USAF; the commander of the United States Joint Task Force on POW/MIA, Brigadier General Thomas Needham, U.S. Army; and director for Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia Affairs for the State Department, Mr. Christopher Lafleur.

"General Vessey and his delegation made a courtesy call on Defense Minister General Doan Khue and held discussions with Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam. Attending with the minister were: Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai; Deputy Minister of Defense Lieutenant General Tran Van Quang; Ministry of Interior representative Brigadier General Nguyen Quang Phong; Director of the General Department of the Foreign Ministry Nguyen Tam Chien; Acting Director of the America Department, Le Bang; deputy director of the America Department, Nguyen Xuan Phong; deputy chief of staff of the Foreign Ministry, Nguyen Duc Hung; director, Vietnamese Office for Seeking Missing Persons (VNOSMP) Ho Xuan Dich; deputy director, VNOSMP Ngo Hoang; VNOSMP Senior Colonel Tran Bien, Ministry of Defense [as received].

"The two sides exchanged views on the humanitarian questions of concern to Vietnam and to the United States and other questions of mutual interest in a frank and constructive atmosphere.

"They agreed to strengthen existing measures designed to promote acquisition and confirmation of information concerning missing Americans and to continue cooperation to resolve remaining problems. They further reviewed the implementation of the agreements reached between Foreign Minister Cam and General Vessey in October 1991, the results of the 15th joint iteration, and the progress achieved in addressing the humanitarian issues of both countries. They reviewed the results of the investigations of the 119 discrepancy cases to which the U.S. and Vietnam have given investigative priority since 1988 and agreed to hold meetings at an expert level to discuss ways to accelerate resolution of these cases and to plan operations for the next 12 to 24 months.

"General Vessey reviewed for the Vietnamese side U.S. efforts to address Vietnam's humanitarian needs. In this connection, he informed the Vietnamese Government that the U.S. would provide for the first time disaster assistance to aid victims of the recent typhoon in central Vietnam. The Vietnamese side appreciated these efforts and requested the the American side increase its contributions in this area. They agreed to hold in Hanoi by the end of February, 1992 a meeting of representatives of the two governments to further evaluate the U.S. programs and Vietnam's humanitarian needs.

"Both sides reiterated the desire of their respective governments for an early normalization of relations between Vietnam and the United States.

"General Vessey and Foreign Minister Cam agreed to meet again following next month's experts meetings, at a date to be determined, to assess progress." General Vessey and his party left here this afternoon.

DPRK Foreign Minister Concludes Visit

BK0102064992 Hanoi VNA in English 0633 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 31—Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and his party this morning, concluded a four day official visit to Vietnam.

He was seen off by Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam, and other Vietnamese senior officials.

DPRK Ambassador to Vietnam Yi Hong was among the farewell party.

At the see-off ceremony, Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam invited Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam to visit DPRK, and the latter accepted the invitation with pleasure.

Japanese Aid Sought for Oil Resources Development

OW0302071592 Tokyo KYODO in English 0632 GMT 03 Feb 92

[Text] Davos, Switzerland, Feb. 3 KYODO—Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai said Monday his country seeks technical and financial aid from Japan for a project to develop oil resources in the South China Sea.

Khai, visiting Davos to attend an annual meeting of the world economic forum, made the remark during an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE.

Khai, a reform-minded economist who served chairman of the Vietnamese State Planning Committee from 1989 to 1991, said Vietnam hopes to switch to a market economy in stages, join the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) eventually, and contribute to the economic expansion of East Asia.

He met earlier with former Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, who led the Japanese delegation to the meeting.

Vietnam is hoping that Japan will provide more technical aid to Vietnam for expansion of its electric power industry, telecommunications services, and housing, and more investments for development of its mining and manufacturing industries, Khai said.

Foreign investment in Vietnam doubled in 1991 from 1990 to 1.1 billion U.S. dollars under its "Doi Moi" economic reform programs and the amount is expected to double again in 1992 despite U.S. economic sanctions against the country, Khai said.

Investment has increased from Germany, France, and Italy, among other countries, said.

Japanese Company To Drill Offshore

BK0202084092 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 30 Jan 92

[Text] The (Adrian) Petro Company of Japan on Wednesday [29 January] announced that it had agreed with Vietnam Petro to explore and extract oil and gas offshore southern Vietnam.

This is the first Japanese company to do business in this field with Vietnam. Officials of the Japanese company will work in detail with the Vietnamese side to reach an early agreement by June 1992 and exploration will be carried out late this year.

Trade Relations With UK Expanded in 1991

BK0202075692 Hanoi VNA in English 0630 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 2—According to the Ministry of Commerce and Tourism trade relations between Vietnam and Britain have seen a new step of development in 1991. In November 1991, Vietnam imported from Britain more than one million pounds worth of goods, bringing the total import value from Britain to almost six million pounds in the first eleven months of 1991. In return, Vietnam exported almost 1.4 million pounds worth of goods, bringing the total export value to Britain to about 7.5 million pounds in the first eleven months of 1991. The goods exported to Britain comprised coal, garments, cashew nuts, construction, timber, seafoods, and black tea.

Border Trade With PRC Due To Expand

BK0202143792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0015 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] Dong Trang town, situated between the Vietnamese district of Mong Cai and the Chinese port district of Lam Chau, is a border market where Vietnamese and Chinese traders exchange their goods and local products. Such Chinese goods as chinaware, household utensils, cloth, ready-made dresses, electric appliances, and furniture and so forth are in great demand in this town. Vietnamese goods including shoes, art works, rice, maritime products, poultry, forestry items, and sugar are sought after by Chinese traders.

According to the local administrative officials, the volume of goods in trading at this border town increased many times during the last months of 1991. In December alone, the volume of exchanged goods was as large as that of 1990 or 1989 when relations between the two countries were yet to be normalized. Trading between the two peoples has not been limited to this border town alone, but has also expanded to distant provinces. Indeed, Chinese goods have come from 20 provinces, while Vietnamese goods from Hanoi, other provinces, and even Ho Chi Minh City are bartered for Chinese merchandise at the border markets. These trading activities have contributed to better supplies of goods for peoples of the hinterland regions of both countries and have created more jobs for the two peoples in the border areas. Many new shops, houses, and hotels have been built, thus changing the face of streets in this border town.

The Chinese paper RENMIN RIBAO on 20 January reported that following the normalization of Sino-Vietnamese relations, China and Vietnam are preparing to gradually open 12 border passes along Guangxi Province's border line. These border passes include the Bang Tuong rail route and the Friendship Border Gate. The rail route from Bang Tuong to the Sino-Vietnamese border has been restored and the communications system is being installed.

With this development, the trade relations between the two peoples at the border areas will be expanded and developed remarkably in the near future, thereby meeting the wish and aspiration of the Vietnamese and Chinese peoples at the border towns and other localities.

Singapore Trade Mission Hears Assistance Requests

BK0202094792 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 31 Jan 92 p 45

[By Mary Kwang in Ho Chi Minh City]

[Text] Vietnam needs money for new ships, machinery and equipment for handling and forwarding cargo—this is the message brought strongly across to a visiting Singapore shipping and trade logistics mission currently here.

In particular, the Vietnamese are seeking capital and joint ventures with Singapore and other foreign companies in three priority areas: tanker operations; containerisation and supporting services and infrastructure; and shipbuilding and repairs.

The 12-member mission, led by Neptune Orient Lines' chief operating officer, Mr Lim How Teck, was briefed on these needs during meetings with officials from the Vietnamese Transport Ministry as well as state-owned shipping corporations.

Dr Bui Van Suong who is vice-minister in charge of shipping of the Vietnamese Ministry of Transport and Communications, said that oil-rich Vietnam does not have enough tankers to transport its crude oil exports which totalled 10 million tonnes last year.

Mr Pham Chiet Quat, vice-president of Vinamarine, said: "It is government policy that we try to carry 40 per cent of the tonnnage; but in actual fact, we do not have enough funds to do so."

Vinamarine is the largest shipping group here and oversees the country's commercial shipping operations. It ships more than half of the total cargo handled by Vietnamese shipping companies.

Its subsidiary, Vietnam Container Shipping (Viconship), is looking for foreign partners to form a joint venture to buy and own container vessels and tap the growing market here.

In the last two years, container cargo volume has grown by about 25 per cent annually to reach 100,000 TEUs (twenty foot equivalent) last year.

This volume, which now forms 3 per cent of total cargo handled at Vietnam's ports, is expected to grow by about the same rate this year, said Viconship's managing director, Mr Nguyen Vinh Phuc.

No Vietnamese company owns container vessels at the moment. Container feeder services are now mainly provided by foreign shipping lines in joint ventures with Vietnamese firms, using chartered vessels.

On prospects for Singapore companies in warehousing and trucking operations to support container services here, Mr Quat of Vinamarine said that the country is short of heavy trucks as well as container handling equipment such as cranes and prime movers.

He said that while it has adequate warehousing and storage facilities, Vietnamese shipping agencies need funds to computerise their forwarding operations.

Stressing the need to upgrade the country's merchant fleet, Dr Suong from the Transport and Communications Ministry said that the vessels are old and have a total capacity of only 3 million tonnes of cargo, or about one-fifth of the total volume handled at the ports.

The shipyards in Vietnam, which total about 40, can build ships of up to 5,000 dead weight ton, he said, but are unable to cope with demand for repairs.

As such, Vietnam has sent two or three vessels each year to repair yards in Singapore, including Jurong Shipyard.

Vo Van Kiet Proposes Eased Foreign Investment

BK3101090592 Hanoi VNA in English 0620 GMT 31 Jan 92

["NHAN DAN's New Year Interview With Premier Vo Van Kiet"—VNA headline]

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan 31—"With the renovation of economic management which conforms to law and the people's aspiration, many new capabilities have emerged and are emerging and new conditions are being created," said Premier Vo Van Kiet in his new year interview with the daily NHAN DAN.

He said: "Up to this point, we can say that our economy is in a position to gradually fill the trade deficit and quickly find new import and export markets. With new incentive policies, new productive forces have been aroused to create essential material reserves and the new capabilities of righting major and sudden imbalances. These capabilities though still modest, are of important significance and hold out bright prospects as they reflect the impacts of the new economic mechanism, of the release of the economic forces in the process of renovation. They also show that the changes meet the desire of the people. These are not temporary capabilities which are contingent on certain conditions and would eventually disappear when these conditions cease to exist. Instead, they will be perpetuated and develop dynamically together with the improvement of economic management and the continued readjustments as required by the economic mechanism."

Asked whether the new situation requires any special policies and measures, the premier said:

"The past years of renovation policy have helped us to see quite clearly what problems to be solved when we embark on the market mechanism. In 1992, we will continue with renovation with a triple goal: to make economic and social relations wholesome and to establish a new order in distribution.

"To further develop all the economic sectors, diversify the forms of ownership and stimulate the dynamism of the market mechanism, we have to apply widely and deeply the law on private businesses and the law on stock company and make them common practice in the day-to-day life.

"The state welcomes, supports and encourages the establishment of private businesses and stock companies in any forms. It will take the first steps in deregulating a number of state-run enterprises and changing the forms of ownership of some state-owned farms and forest plantations. The new lines of production and business, the redundant labour force who want to change to new jobs, the priority of risk-prone branches and enterprises shall enjoy tax reduction and even state assistance in technical services, marketing and funds.

"To develop our foreign trade, draw in more foreign investments and receive major investment projects, we should make careful preparations about the areas of priority investment as well as our market policies.

"We shall step by step expand the forms of indirect investment and try to involve all sources of capital from foreign organizations and individuals who would join in investment or buy shares or government bonds. We need to make careful calculations about the infrastructural projects, basic industries, and key technical branches before asking for foreign loans to rapidly increase our economic potentials. The state has drawn up plans to build a number of export processing zones to increase the attraction of our investment policy.

"We shall devote substantial manpower and financial resources to building some national-scale companies or corporations in key and promising branches, and also some economic zones with abundant and easily exploitable natural resources and convenient to our economic exchanges with the world.

"Now, the capabilities and conditions have emerged to build a life long dreamt of by our people. If we have not enough willpower to overcome difficulties and to seize the opportunity that has offered itself, the socio-economic crisis will persist and disorder and instability are hard to avoid. Our friends all over the world have recognized our achievements in renovation and are hoping to see our next steps of development."

Foreign Trade Bank Financial Statistics Noted

BK0102161292 Hanoi VNA in English 1558 GMT 1 Feb 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 1—In the past two years, the foreign trade bank of Ho Chi Minh City (Vietcombank) paid foreign debts totalling U.S.$1.30 billion, said Nguyen Duy Lo, Vietnam foreign trade bank director general and Vietcombank director, to reporters at a meeting in Ho Chi Minh City recently.

Vietcombank is the biggest subsidiary of the Vietnam foreign trade bank. It is equipped with computers, telecommunications means. Vietcombank is the pilot unit in using international credit cards, Visa, Master and JVC cards. It has played an active role in the operations of the city foreign exchange centre, in the intervention in gold and foreign currency market to effectively lower the price of gold and U.S. dollar. Its remarkable success was the credit investments for production, intensive investments in upgrading material bases.

Council of Ministers Reviews Budget Estimates

BK0202085492 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 30 Jan 92

[From the press review]

[Text] NHAN DAN, QUAN DOI NHAN DAN, and HANOI MOI report that the Council of Ministers has discussed the draft bill on the organization of the government and has continued its debate on the 1992 state budget estimates.

Regarding the 1992 state budget estimates, it is necessary to see to it that basic changes be effected in budget allocations by making a thorough review of spendings, by exploiting to the fullest all existing revenues while at the same time creating new ones, and by taking advantage of all favorable conditions at home and abroad.

After making a second review of the 1992 state budget, the Council of Ministers will submit it to the National Assembly for approval at its forthcoming session.

Council in Charge of Non-State Sector Established

BK3001100192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] To develop the potential of the collective, individual, and private economies, the Council of Ministers chairman has issued Decision No. 409/CT recognizing the establishment of the central provisional council in charge of non-state business institutions.

The central provisional council has provided concrete guidance on the establishment of its chapters in the various provinces and cities based on the economic activities of the non-state sector in each province or city.

Wherever conditions permit, the provinces and cities concerned will make arrangements for those councils to be set up at an early date from now until the end of the second quarter of 1992.

Local councils in charge of non-state business institutions are responsible for motivating their members to voluntarily make preparations for the national congress of non-state business institutions scheduled to take place by the end of the second quarter of this year.

27 January Free Market Prices Reported

BK3101093592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] According to statistics released by the State Pricing Commission, the free market prices in the country on 27 January 1992 are as follows:

—The price of a kilogram of ordinary rice is 2,500 dong in Hanoi and Haiphong, 2,450 dong in Ha Nam Ninh, 2,300-2,400 dong in Thai Binh, 2,100 dong in Danang, 2,250 in Ho Chi Minh City, 1,950 dong in My Tho, 2,000 dong in Can Tho, 1,800 dong in Ca Mau, and 1,900 dong in Long Xuyen.

—The price of a kilogram of pork loin is 12,500 dong in Hanoi, 13,500 dong in Haiphong, 13,000 dong in Ha Bac, 12,000 dong in Nam Dinh, 14,000 dong in Danang, 14,500 dong in My Tho, 15,000 dong in Ca Mau, and 18,000 dong in Ho Chi Minh City.

—The price of a chi of 98-percent pure gold is 527,000 dong in Hanoi, 525,000 dong in Haiphong, 520,000 dong in Quang Ninh, and 514,000 dong in Danang.

—The price of a chi of 96-percent pure gold is 508,000 dong in Ho Chi Minh City, 512,000 dong in Can Tho, and 518,000 dong in Long Xuyen.

—The price of a U.S. dollar is 11,550 dong in Hanoi, 11,700 dong in Haiphong, 11,500 dong in Quang Ninh, 11,400 dong in Ho Chi Minh City and Can Tho, and 11,600-11,700 dong in Long Xuyen.

—The buying price of a U.S. dollar is 11,150 dong at the Hanoi foreign trade bank.

—The price of a yuan is 1,880-1,900 dong in Lang Son and 1,950 dong in Quang Ninh.

Bank Governor Interviewed on Gold, Dollar Rate

BK2901140592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Report on a "recent" interview with State Bank Governor Cao Sy Kiem by an unidentified correspondent of the newspaper TIN TUC BUOI CHIEU [Afternoon News] on "matters surrounding the price of gold and the exchange rate of the U.S. dollar"; date and place not given—read by announcer]

[Summary] [Correspondent] Could you tell us of recent developments in the gold price and in the exchange rate of the U.S. dollar?"

[Cao Sy Kiem] "During the final months of 1991, particularly from mid-October to the end of November, the price of gold and the exchange rate of the U.S. dollar constantly shot up to high levels. In this spate of price upheavals, the price of gold increased faster than the exchange rate of the U.S. dollar. The gold price soared even higher than that in the world market. At its peak, the gold price reached 660,000 dong per Chi [Vietnamese measuring unit equivalent to 3.75 grams] and the exchange rate for a U.S. dollar rose to between 14,500-14,700 dong." This aroused concern among the people and adversely affected production and business, especially the country's export-import units.

Faced with these complex developments, "the State Bank promptly asked the chairman of the Council of Ministers to approve a policy on gold and foreign currency sales aimed at curbing the price increase and gradually bringing down and stabilizing the price in a rational fashion." This intervention policy was immediately approved by the chairman of the Council of Ministers.

[Correspondent] What does the intervention policy involve?

[Cao Sy Kiem] Along with ensuring that the sales of gold and foreign currencies are carried out in a planned fashion, "the state simultaneously introduced a number of measures which call for, among other things, intensifying crackdowns on smuggling, exercising control over the sources of cash, foreign currencies, and gold owned by various economic units, and increasing management over the trading of foreign currencies." At that time, the entire system of Vietnamese goldshop companies temporarily set aside its market-oriented mechanism and shifted to selling gold at a state-directed price.

[Correspondent] Could you, comrades, tell us of the specific results of this price control drive?

[Cao Sy Kiem] "After a short period of time, the price of gold and the exchange rate of the U.S. dollar dropped rapidly. The gold price fell to its lowest ebb of 530,000 dong per Chi, down by 130,000 dong from its peak; and the exchange rate of the U.S. dollar was 11,100 dong per U.S. dollar, down by 3,320 dong. This helped restore the people's confidence."

[Correspondent] "Was this the first time that the State Bank has intervened in the gold and U.S. dollar market systematically and effectively?"

[Cao Sy Kiem] "Yes, it was the first time since the promulgation of the law governing the State Bank."

[Correspondent] "Rumors have it that the State Bank will only assure the stability of the gold price and the dollar exchange rate until the traditional New Year. Then, what is the State Bank's intention?"

[Cao Sy Kiem] As it is the regular duty of the State Bank to intervene in the market to stabilize prices. Along with carrying out gold, foreign currency control measures, "the state always keeps some quantities of gold and foreign currencies in reserve and is ready to intervene in the gold and dollar market whenever there is a shakeup to keep the gold price and the dollar exchange rate at a reasonable level."

[Correspondent] What are reasonable prices for gold and the dollar?

[Cao Sy Kiem] As far as foreign currencies are concerned, a standard exchange rate for foreign currencies is one that suits Vietnamese economy and the buying power of the Vietnamese currency. As for gold, the standard price must be based on such factors as the gold price in the world and the dollar exchange rate set by the Foreign Exchange Transactions Center. "Our principle for intervention is that when the gold price and the dollar exchange rate exceed the standard level, the State Bank will bring out gold and foreign currencies for sale. And conversely, when the price drops below the standard level, the bank will buy in gold and foreign currencies to stimulate supply and demands and to maintain price stability. For me, at this point the price of gold and the exchange rate of the dollar are fairly reasonable."

Do Muoi Attends Conference on Party Organization

BK3101144592 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] On 9-10 and 16-17 January 1992 in Hanoi, the party Central Organization Department held a conference on party organization work for the state-run economic units and the ministry and department offices in Hanoi areas.

Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi; Comrade Le Phuoc Tho, member of the party Political Bureau, secretary of the party Central Committee, and director of the Party Organization Department; Nguyen Duc Binh, member of the party Political Bureau; Nguyen Ha Phan, secretary of the party Central Committee; and leading comrades of the party Organization Department attended and spoke, outlining a working direction for the conference.

Attending the conference were also Comrade Nguyen Duc Tan and Le Van Nguyen, former party Political Bureau members and former directors of the party Organization Department of precedent party congresses, and leading comrades of other party departments.

The secretaries of party committees and managers of state-run economic units, and the ministers and secretaries of party committees of 10 ministries and sectors, also attended and addressed the conference on the party organization work. They evaluated the relationship between the secretaries of party committees and the heads of economic units; the essence of the party leadership in economic units and in ministries and sectors; and the unreasonable issues of party organization work in grassroots organizations at the moment, and so on.

At the conference, while the secretaries and managers discussed the party organization work, Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi prompted many ideas and brought up many issues for the conference to focus on. He particularly stressed that the conference must clarify how the party committees can help the economic units to grow up, the role of party secretaries and members, and the position of party organizations in the business activities of economic units. Having clearly defined these points, he said, then we will be able to confirm and develop the leadership role of the party so that the party can be strong enough to lead the business activities in the present renovation.

The secretaries and managers mentioned strong and weak points, successes and failures in the current process of strengthening and developing the party organizations in production units and they also suggested many practical measures at central level. They said that secretaries and party members in charge of party organization work should have good knowledge, standards, and training in their work. The party organization work mechanism should be rearranged into a simple and practical structure with a clearly defined policy and working procedure. The party structure at grassroots level also needs to be rearranged so that a party committee of a central enterprise or factory with thousands of members should not belong to a district party committee.

At the conference, the secretaries and leading comrades of ministries and central sectors concentrated their discussion on the party leadership role in ministries and sectors, the position of the ministerial councils, and the reestablishment of party affairs committees in ministries and sectors.

Comrade General Secretary Do Muoi and Comrade Le Phuoc Tho and Nguyen Ha Phan listened to many suggestions on the necessity to examine the activities and leadership role of party organizations in government offices, advisory bodies, as well as in rural areas and in schools. They also heard opinions on the necessity to reestablish the party affairs committees in ministries and the party and youth union affairs committees in government offices. The opinions were that only by bringing into light these issues, would we would be able to have favorable conditions and measures to build party organizations with clearly defined functions and have the strength to lead the party's current renovation undertaking.

At the conference, the comrade general secretary and comrades in the party Political Bureau, the Secretariat, and the party Organization Department listened and took notes on the opinions of the delegates and instructed on how to organize follow-up conferences for rural areas, schools, and mountainous areas so that the party Central Committee can decide on these issues.

Do Muoi Addresses Press, Publication Meeting

BK0102151592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Address by Party General Secretary Do Muoi at the 21-24 January Hanoi National Press and Publication Work Conference—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear comrades: The press and publications constitute an integral part of the spiritual life of every individual as well as every nation. Therefore, the press and publication sector is always an important workng tool of various countries and various revolutions.

Fully aware of this importance, right from its founding, our party has given its attention to the press and publication sector. Many of our party and state leaders have personally written press articles and books, and have provided guidance for various newspapers and publishing houses. Chairman Ho Chi Minh, the founder and teacher of our party, was also an outstanding journalist and the master of the Vietnamese revolutionary press.

Throughout the history of the Vietnamese revolution, regardless of whether the revolution was up or down, whether it went underground or came into the open, whether it was struggling to regain power or exercising its leadership over the administration, the press and publication sector in our country always faithfully reflected the policies and lines of the party and the state and manifested the willpower and determination of our people in combat, labor, and in the cause of national construction and defense.

From those handwritten and lithographic press copies, when our party was still operating clandestinely and when there were only a few hundred copies of newspapers published per day, to the up-to-date printing facilities where certain dailies can publish as many as hundreds of thousands of copies per day, the press and publications in our country—in addition to the growth of various electronic communication means—have always served as indispensable spiritual food for, and reliable guilding companions of, our comrades and compatriots nationwide and also a source of encouragement, helping everyone to follow the path chosen by our people, our party, and Uncle Ho.

Among the many great achievements scored by our country's revolution over the past several decades, there have been worthy contributions from many generations of press and publication workers. In the renovation undertaking, the press and publication sector has been renovated and has made a large contribution to the initial, very important successes of the country.

Newspapers and publications have expanded their contents and their information has become more diversified, thus meeting our people's needs for information in all areas—political, economic, scientific, technological, cultural, social, in the area of national defense, and with regard to security—and contributing to improving the people's knowledge.

The dissemination abroad of information on the Vietnamese situation and efforts to keep the people at home informed of the international situation have also been further improved. The press and publication sector has strived both to reflect the voice of the party and the state and other social organizations and to serve at the same time as a public forum.

For many vital issues of the country, our press and publications have been able to disseminate the viewpoints, policy lines, and laws of the party and the state while reflecting the feelings, aspirations, and suggestions of the people of various strata. Many legitimate suggestions have been accepted in order to build, supplement, and perfect various policies and laws.

Faced with complex world developments and domestic situations, the press and publications sector has contributed to the ideological struggle aimed at asserting our people's determination to build socialism, and has promoted positive factors arising in the renovation process. At the same time, it has also actively taken part in the struggle against signs of illegal activities, the scourge of corruption, smuggling, and counterfeiting; against acts of bullying carried out against the people; and against other negative phenomena. Many cases of violations discovered by the press have been tried according to party discipline and the state law.

In the renovation undertaking, various press and publication organs have gradually surged forward to overcome the state of subsidization and have striven to improve their printed matter in terms of both essence and format, thus making them more beautiful and attractive, and meeting the diverse cultural needs of everyone. This is an important step forward for the press and publication work in the renovation stage

On behalf of the party Central Committee, I welcome and cite those results achieved and contributions made by our press and publication sector in the recent past.

We should, however, be aware of shortcomings in the press and publication work which need to be overcome—some of these are very serious. Alongside those good aspects of the printing work, there have appeared press articles and books which have totally negated the past, distorted realities and history, sowed the seeds of pessimism, advertized a pragmatic way of living, and have had a negative effect on society.

Some books and papers, either to make profit or to cater to the debased taste of a segment of the readership, have departed from the lofty social function of eduating the masses and raising the people's cultural knowledge. Even worse, a number of newspapers and books have indulged in pornographic descriptions, violence, and superstitious stories, digging into the privacy of individuals, defaming citizens, inciting a debauched lifestyle, and spreading erroneous concepts, thereby having a considerably adverse affect on society, particularly on the younger generation.

Apart from the achievements in promoting the positive aspects and new factors, there are still many press articles and books with dull and tepid contents which do not reflect practical and pressing issues, or are presented in a poor and unconvincingly manner unable to promptly deal with problems arising from life.

In the struggle against negativism, there have been press articles and books written inaccurately which have failed to straightforwardly correct mistakes or which have carried saber-rattling criticism and comments in an instigating manner stemming from unclear motives.

The press law has not been sternly implemented. Some newspapers and books have not observed the set principles and goals, and have failed to show to their management agencies their license numbers and printing offices, seriously violating the state law.

Apart from progress in renovating their forms, many newspapers and books have shown pictures that excite an unhealthy curiosity. Although the printing facilities have developed rapidly, they lack close managerial control. Efforts have been exerted to improve the publishing task but not to fulfill the task of bringing newspapers and books into all households and regions, especially to outlying areas.

Besides those workers in the press, publication, and printing domains who are responsible for the abovementioned shortcomings, the management agencies must also be held responsible for poorly leading and administering the press and publication. The party committee and the administration at all levels and in many localities have still loosely controlled the press and publications, or even have given carte blanche to the press and publications.

Vo Van Kiet Sends Message to ASEAN Leaders

BK2901051792 Hanoi VNA in French 1531 GMT 28 Jan 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA 28 Jan—Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet sent a message of greetings to Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong and the other heads of state or government of the ASEAN countries on the occasion of their fourth summit. The message said that as a Southeast Asian state, Vietnam wishes to contribute to strengthening relations of friendship, good neighborliness and mutually beneficial cooperation with the ASEAN states for peace and development in the region. In this spirit, Vietnam wishes to subscribe to the Bali Treaty and this desire is highly valued by most ASEAN member countries.

Defense Minister Addresses Signal Corps Conference

BK3101054392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] From 13 to 16 January in the 5th military region, the Signal and Liaison Corps held a conference of signal unit heads to evaluate the results of their duties in 1991 and to define guidelines for this task in 1992. General Doan Khue, member of the Party Central Committee Political Bureau and minister of national defense, attended and addressed the conference.

The conference noted that last year, by thoroughly understanding their duties and by firmly grasping the situation, all Army signal units were able to revise their plans and overcome difficulties. This has ensured smooth communication and liaison services to support work related to the leadership and command at all levels, especially during the All-Army Party Congress and Seventh National Party Congress.

There has been constant efforts to consolidate military communications along with improving the quality of all existing networks and lines and in intensifying management and development work to increase signal and liaison efficiency. Steps had been taken to combine military and civilian communications to maintain the north-south communication axis.

Addressing the conference on behalf of the Military Commission of Party Central Committee and the Ministry of National Defense, General Doan Khue commended the Signal and Liaison Corps for having fulfilled the 1991 tasks. He said:

Faced with the new requirements and tasks, the Signal and Liaison Corps must take the initiative, demonstrate its creativity and sense of industriousness and self-reliance, and closely coordinate with the communication networks of the various sectors, the Post and Telegraph Department and the Interior Ministry in ensuring smooth communications and liaison under all circumstances.

On this occasion, the comrade general also conveyed his kind regards and Tet greetings to all cadres, combatants, workers, and personnel of the corps.

Le Phuoc Tho Attends Binh Dinh Party Congress

BK0202095992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] Binh Dinh Province held its second round 14th party organization congress on 24-26 January. Le Phuoc Tho, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee Political Bureau, attended the congress. The congress unanimously contended that, by implementing the party renovative line during the past five years, the province has made remarkable progress in the socioeconomic, security, and political domains.

In 1991, the province attained an unprecedentedly high grain production output with a per capita of 350 kg. Animal husbandry increased by almost 12 percent, processing of maritime products improved, shrimp rearing developed and expanded to almost 2,000 hectares, planting of forest trees scored fruitful results, and fruit orchard economy was promoted to increase income of the peasant households. Generally speaking, the people's daily life in Binh Dinh has improved considerably.

The congress discussed measures aimed at stabilizing and developing the economy, firmly maintaining national security and social order and safety, enhancing the efficacy of state management, and renovating the party activities.

The congress also set tasks for the next five years which include efforts to expand and develop the multisectoral commodity economy with agriculture serving as a base.

The congress elected a new executive committee of the province's party organization comprising 43 members, 16 of them are new comrades. The two youngest ones are 39 years old.

Fatherland Front Leader Marks CPV Anniversary

BK3101155792 Hanoi VNA in English 1527 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 31—"The Vietnamese people feel greatly indebted to the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) and to the late president Ho Chi Minh who led them to victory in the August revolution of 1945 and in the two wars of resistance that followed, and who continue to lead them successfully now in building and defending the country," said President Nguyen Huu Tho of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Fatherland Front in Hanoi today.

Mr. Nguyen Huu Tho was opening a big meeting marking the 62nd anniversary of the CPV. He stressed that the people were realising with greater clarity that unity between them and the leading party was of vital importance to the Vietnamese revolution, that the correct leadership of the party was the primary factor of success.

"We are celebrating the party's anniversary at a moment when great changes are taking place in the world and when the country is still caught in a socio-economic crisis," Mr. Nguyen Huu Tho told the audience, which included party General Secretary Do Muoi and many other high-ranking party and state officials.

"For this reason we have to act with a much higher sense of responsibility and self-reliance. We have to give full play to all our material, moral and intellectual strengths and to unite firmly so as to join the party and the government in overcoming all difficulties to make the country prosperous and strong," he stressed.

The front leader was followed on the podium by Mr. Pham Van Kiet, vice president and general secretary of the front, who recalled the victorious journey the Vietnamese people had made in all those years under the leadership of the Communist Party. Mr. Kiet also analysed mistakes and shortcomings accompanying each period of the revolution. Now, despite the complicated situation in the world, the Vietnamese people persist in renovating their country, he stressed.

The speaker noted that hostile forces, emboldened by the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the socialist states in Eastern Europe, are seeking to do away with the leading role of the Communist Party. But the Vietnamese people have to secure political stability and keep the economy from getting overly upset continuing their renovation process with positive results, he observed.

Mr. Kiet called on the entire people to close their ranks and advance with determination to achieve what the party plans for the next five years—socio-economic stability and development, political stability, social justice and a basic settlement of the present crisis.

Hanoi People Contribute Ideas to Constitution

BK0202103992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] For nearly one month, Hanoi has been organizing the first stage of soliciting views from the public on the draft constitution. The city has held meetings twice a week and collected more than 900,000 ideas from people of all walks of life.

The opinions confirm that the state's decision to revise the 1980 Constitution is in conformity with the current trend of renovation and it is meeting the people's legitimate aspiration.

The public also suggested that the position of intellectual contingent needs to be confirmed in the constitution because science and technology have become very important factors in the country's present development process.

At the moment, Hanoi continues its second stage of soliciting public views on the draft constitution. The second stage will be concluded on 14 February.

130 Return Under Voluntary Repatriation Program

BK0202084692 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 30 Jan 92

[Text] On 29 January, 130 Vietnamese returned home under the voluntary repatriation program sponsored by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR].

This marks the 88th batch of returnees under this program and also the first flight of repatriates to Ho Chi Minh City since the start of the program.

Measures To Solve Electricity Shortage Reported

BK2901153392 Hanoi VNA in English 1433 GMT 29 Jan 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan.29—Vietnam's electric power industry is taking strong measures to solve the shortage of electricity in the provinces and cities of south Vietnam from Lam Dong southward to Minh Hai with a total population of 24 million.

As a result of the increase of electric capacity, both thermal and hydraulic, by 30 percent (from 771.1,mws in 1976 to 1,000 mw in 1990) and the doubling of electric transmission lines electricity supply per head has increased 1.8 times from 80 kwh to 150 kwh in the said period.

The main electricity suppliers for the south are the 400 mw Tri Lan hydro-electric power plant which became fully operational in 1990, the 160 mw Do Nhim hydro-electric power plant and two small hydro-electric power plants in Suoi Vang and Loc Phat with a total capacity of 3.5 mw. Due to the shortage of [words indistinct] season, these plants could not operate full capacity, providing only 5 million kwh/day for the region which needs 12 million kwh/day.

The Electricity Company II (for the south) has put 20 million US dollars in 4 more gas turbines and some diesel generators. As a result, the generating capacity has been increased by 1 million kwh/day.

In 1991, the whole region turned out 3.8 billion kwh, 0.4 billion less than the average projected by the 1991-95 plan.

Southern electric power plants hope to generate 7.2 billion kwh annually by 1995 with an annual increase of 100 mw.

Australia

Current Account Deficit Falls 55 Percent

BK0302070292 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] A dramatic drop in imports has caused Australia's current deficit to fall by 55 percent in December. Carmel O'Keeffe reports that the federal government should be pleased with the result. She says the government should get some (?ammunition) for its economic strategy from the latest balance of payments results, which have revealed the lowest current account deficit since April 1988.

In December, the current accounct deficit was $767 million seasonally adjusted, a 55 percent fall on the previous month and well below analysts' forecasts. Imports fell by 16 percent and exports by 1 percent. There are also positive signs for the housing market, with building approval for December rising by more than 7 percent after two monthly falls.

French Polynesia

New High Commissioner Michel Jau Arrives 1 Feb

BK0202110892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1026 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Text] Papeete, Feb 1 (AFP)—The new High Commissioner for French Polynesia Michel Jau arrived here Saturday, saying he had come to work, understand and talk.

Jau, who has made three brief visits here in the past, said he had shed his Parisian skin on the plane so as to make himself "completely available to listen to the problems of the territory."

While Jau declined to make any comment on the current political situation in French Polynesia, he said he was determined to demonstrate that "internal autonomy is working well" in the territory.

New Caledonia

Australian Foreign Minister Arrives in Noumea

BK3101092292 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 31 Jan 92

[Text] Australia's foreign minister, Gareth Evans, has arrived in New Caledonia on the first leg of a five-nation tour of the South Pacific. Sen. Evans said he would reiterate Australia's strong support for the Matignon process, which has brought peace and reconciliation to New Caledonia over the past few years.

Welcoming Sen. Evans, the French high commissioner, Mr. Alain Christnacht, said that the territory was opening up to trade with Australia. He said the scrapping yesterday of licensing restrictions on more than 400 items would allow in such Australian products as wine and cheese previously barred to protect European varieties.

Mr. Christnacht said the liberalization reflected the will of the French territory to integrate into the South Pacific politically and economically. He said it also showed the improvement in relations between Australia and New Caledonia.

Supports 10-Year Program for Future

BK0202085092 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0800 GMT 2 Feb 92

[Text] Australia's Foreign Minister Gareth Evans says a political solution in New Caledonia may involve a form of autonomy within France rather than complete independence. Speaking at the end of a three-day visit to New Caledonia Senator Evans said he saw an emerging consensus that the planned referendum in 1998 should not be a head on contest between French settlers and the Kanak population.

He expressed Austrlia's strong support for the ten-year program leading to the vote on New Caledonia's future in 1998. But, while stressing that Australia did not want confrontation with France, he said it would be premature to remove the territory from the United Nations decolonisation list.

Papua New Guinea

Border Officials Discuss Indonesian Refugees

BK3001065292 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 30 Jan 92

[Text] Papua New Guinea border officials are meeting their Indonesian counterparts today to discuss the latest influx of Irian Jayan border crossers. The refugees fled Irian Jaya after clashes between the Indonesian security forces and the Irian Jayan rebels from the OPM [Free Papua Movement]. Michael Troy reports from Port Moresby:

[Begin Troy recording] A senior PNG minister says the Irian Jayan villagers were fleeing across the border because they fear reprisals from the Indonesians after a military post was attacked by the OPM last Friday. Originally, it was thought as many as 1,500 people may have crossed over, but the PNG prime minister, Rabbie Namaliu, said after a head count yesterday there was only 152. He said they were being protected and fed at the (Wiyam) Government Station.

Mr. Namaliu said PNG's border liaison officer is meeting the Indonesian security force commander in Jayapura to discuss the border clash and the position regarding the refugees. [end recording]

Government Concerned Over Rebel Radio Station

BK3002093892 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0600 GMT 30 Jan 92

[From the "International Report" program]

[Text] The Papua New Guinea [PNG] Government says it will do everything it can to silence a rebel radio station being operated by secessionists on Bougainville Island. Radio Free Bougainville made its first broadcast on Sunday night and as our Port Moresby correspondent, Michael Troy reports, its impact is already causing concern within the government.

[Begin recording] [Poor quality recording of rebel radio station opening announcement] This is Radio Free Bougainville broadcasting from Arawa, capital of the Republic of Bougainville. Our listeners....

[Troy] Every night between 1900 and 2200 Radio Free Bougainville crackles into life on the shortwave band. Its first broadcast was picked up by ham radio operators as far away as Adelaide. One man even called the ABC [Australian Broadcasting Corporation] here in Port Moresby concerned that he had heard PNG troops were massing for an attack on the BRA [Bougainville Revolutionary Army]. Indeed, the first news broadcast on Radio Free Bougainville told of 500 troops being landed in the northeast of the island and how rebels in the south believed that soldiers were preparing for an attack.

The broadcast caused quite a stir in Port Moresby where the local paper, the POST COURIER, headlined the BRA claim on its front page. Caught on its back foot, the government was forced to make a hasty denial in order to defuse the situation. In hindsight, the BRA claims proved to have been wildly exaggerated, but with its first broadcast, Radio Bougainville had shown it was a force to be reckoned with.

So what could the government do to silence it? On Monday, Acting Prime Minister Jack Genia declared the radio station would be forced off air because it was operating illegally according to the International Telecommunications Act. He also directed the Foreign Affairs Department to investigate claims that the Australian-based International Amateur Radio Network had helped established the station. PNG, though, is not famous for its technological expertise. But, on his return from the ASEAN summit in Singapore, Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu directed PTC [Post and Telecommunication Corporation] technicians to do what they could.

[Namaliu] I think that I will be getting a briefing later on from the PTC because they should be in a position to know exactly how this radio is operating and what steps can be taken to deal with it.

[Troy] So, while the politicians and bureaucrats wrestle for an answer to rid the air waves of Radio Free Bougainville, listeners can continue to tune in for a very different view of events on the war-torn island.

[Poor quality recording of rebel radio station opening announcement] This is Radio Free Bougainville broadcasting from Arawa, capital of the Republic of Bougainville. Our listeners: [recording continues briefly in pidgin before fadeout] [end recording]

Protest Lodged With Australia

BK0302063992 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Papua New Guinea [PNG] has lodged an official protest with Australia over the reported involvement of three Australians in setting up a rebel radio station on the secessionist island of Bougainville. Michael Troy reports that the Port Moresby Government alleges the three illegally entered Bougainville to set up the station calling itself Radio Free Bougainville.

[Begin recording] [Recording of rebel radio station opening announcement] This is Radio Free Bougainville broadcasting from Awarwa, capital of the Republic of Bougainville.

[Troy] Every night between 1900 and 2200 Radio Free Bougainville crackles into life on the shortwave band. Prime minister Rabbie Namaliu has instructed technicians to jam the frequency but so far with no success. Investigations into how the Bougainville Revolutionary Army [BRA] obtained the radio equipment led to three Australians, (Dan Bowan) from Sydney and a (Mr. Backstaf) and a (Mr. Barain).

Government officials claim (Mr. Bowan), the Australian director of International Amateur Radio Network, is the key organizer and have called on the Australia Government to revoke his radio license. [end recording]

Rescue Under Way After Rebels, Villagers Clash

LD0302093292 Wellington Radio New Zealand International in English 0700 GMT 3 Feb 92

[Text] Up to five people are believed dead and a rescue mission for hundreds more is under way after renewed hostilities on the breakaway Papua New Guinea island of Bougainville. Papua New Guinea's National Disaster and Emergency Service says the five died during fighting between the secessionist Bougainville Revolutionary Army [BRA] and the pro-government villages south of the town of Arawa. Papua New Guinea has sent vessels to rescue about 600 villagers who have been caught up in the fighting. They will be taken to safety at the northern village of Wakunai. The emergency service says the fighting has involved only the Revolutionary Army and pro-government villages and has so far not included any of the Papua New Guinea Defense Forces.